

Hafa Adai!

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More COVID-19 vaccines arrive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. receiving 17,100 more COVID-19 vaccine doses last Friday, April 2, the CNMI will be getting additional support from South Korea to help with the community-based testing. **See VACCINES on Page 4**

'FEMA to help with funeral costs due to COVID-19 deaths'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that the Federal

Emergency Management Assistance will help with funeral expenses due to COVID-19 deaths by April 12, 2021.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan said FEMA announced last Saturday that such assistance is available for funerals that took place in the United States after Jan. 20, 2020.

"An applicant for assistance **See FEMA on Page 4**



Sablan

AT A GLANCE

As of 5pm, April 4, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,810	6	7,816
Recovered	7,649	0	7,649
Active	25	6	31
Deaths	134	2	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		141,412	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	159	0	159
Traced via Travel Screening	123	0	123
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		26,131*	
Days since last community transmission		19	

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 15,063	Dose 1: 952	Dose 1: 944
Dose 2: 11,177	Dose 2: 575	Dose 2: 735

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

US Army helps administer COVID-19 vaccines



A team of 12 U.S. Army medical professionals began administering COVID-19 vaccine doses to members of the Saipan community last Saturday, April 3.

The team, composed of a

medical officer and combat medic specialists assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, traveled to Saipan last April 1. The soldiers are slated to com-

See ARMY on Page 4

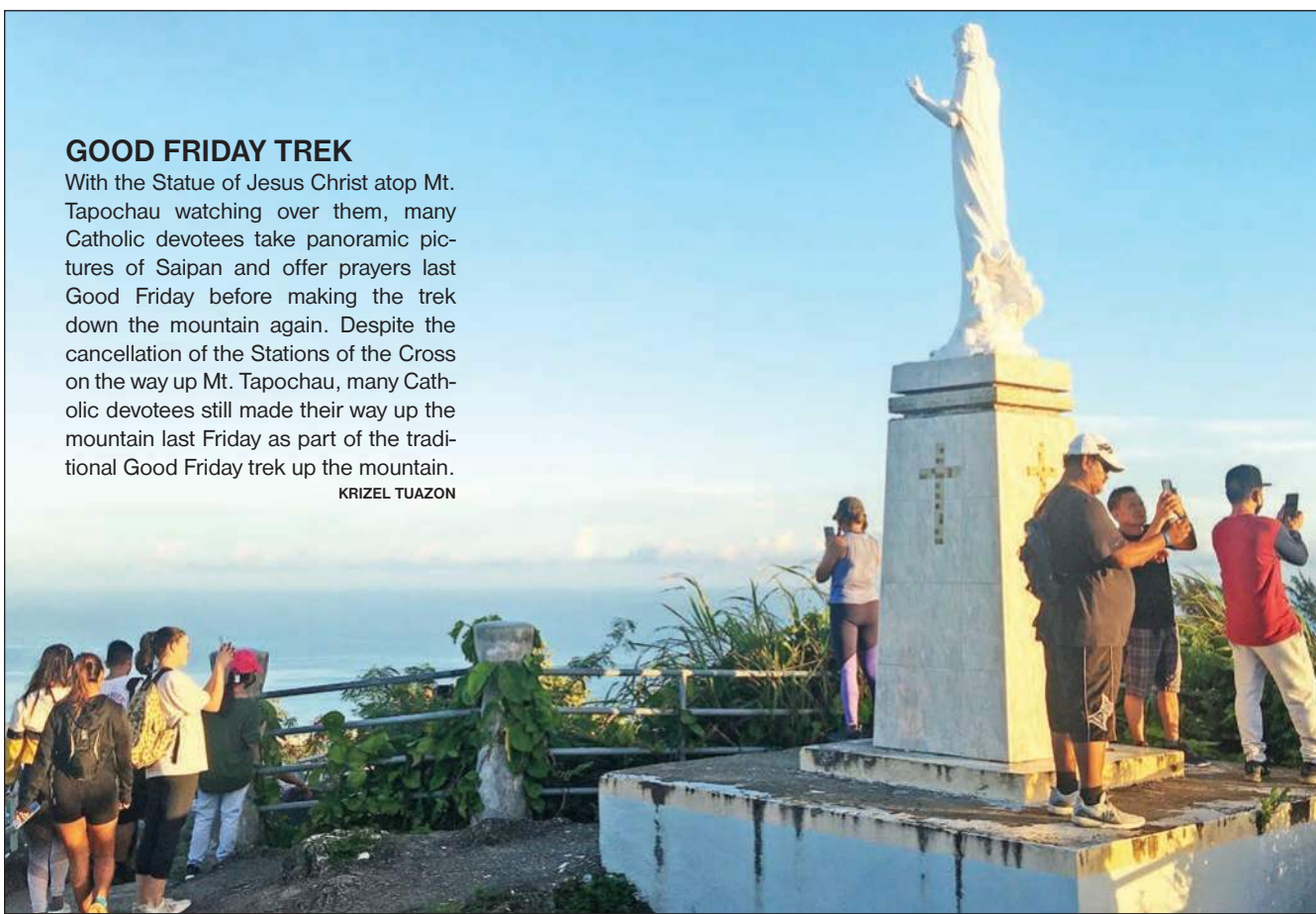
Sgt. Franchesca Esteban, assigned to 25th Infantry Division, administers a COVID-19 vaccine in support of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp's COVID-19 vaccination team at the Medical Care and Treatment Site.

U.S. NAVY/BRAD RUSZALA

GOOD FRIDAY TREK

With the Statue of Jesus Christ atop Mt. Tapochau watching over them, many Catholic devotees take panoramic pictures of Saipan and offer prayers last Good Friday before making the trek down the mountain again. Despite the cancellation of the Stations of the Cross on the way up Mt. Tapochau, many Catholic devotees still made their way up the mountain last Friday as part of the traditional Good Friday trek up the mountain.

KRIZEL TUAZON



\$406,481 more funding for NMI fishermen

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (MP-Ind) disclosed over the weekend that the

Northern Marianas will receive \$406,481 in additional fisheries assistance funding

on top of the \$980,000 that was previously allocated to the CNMI.

In his e-kilili newsletter, **See FISHERMEN on Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

Around 300 people take part in the Easter Egg Event of the Rotary Club of Saipan last Saturday.

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LOCAL

The House of Representatives minority bloc complete repainting the Garapan Skate Park.

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BUSINESS

Night Scent Restaurant is having a fried chicken and milk tea promotion as a big thank you.

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Local

Over 300 attend Rotary's first-ever Easter Egg Event

By NEIL FAMA
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REPORTER

With over 2,000 eggs hidden in the nooks and crannies of the Sugar King Park in Garapan, that ensured that almost everyone who participated in the Easter Egg Event of the Rotary Club of Saipan last Saturday, April 3, went home with a prize.

Rotarian Committee Service director Joann Aquino said around 300 people gathered for this event, which the Rotary Club of Saipan hosted for the first time ever. The event was divided into two segments: the Easter Egg Hunt, with participants divided into four groups (toddlers, preschool, elementary, and middle school) and the Easter Egg Decoration Contest which had high school student participants.

"We had a lot of prizes to give out. We're really thankful for our donors who gave cash and in-kind snacks and their support. This was a good event for the first time. We hope to do this next year and to add on more activities and to get the adults more involved. We



Winners of the Rotary Club of Saipan's first-ever Easter Egg Event hold up their prize certificates after the event last Saturday at the Sugar King Park.

NHORLEEN LILLES

have some plans coming up," said Aquino.

Besides the eggs, Aquino said they also had 300 goodie bags, and inside the eggs themselves had vouchers for goodie bags, prizes, or cash.

The Rotary was supposed to hold this event last year but

it got cancelled due to COVID-19, so Aquino is happy they were able to proceed this year. "Families and kids, have been locked in for some time, so I hope that by providing this community event, this brought them out, gave them some fun and fresh air,

and I hope they enjoyed the whole event and their prizes," Aquino said.

She also added that everyone practiced the protocols, signed in for contact tracing, and all wore masks.

Rotary Club Saipan president Sonya Dancoc said she

hopes everybody enjoyed themselves. "Next year we'll try and throw another one. The rain started falling by the last moments of the Easter egg hunt. It cooled it down a bit, but there weren't any complaints. ...Hope to see you all again next year," said Dancoc.

Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) participated with her family at the event. "I'm very happy that the Rotary hosted this event for the community on this beautiful Saturday morning. They did such an amazing job implementing the COVID-19 guidelines, and ensuring that the kids had so much fun, and that it was a safe event for the entire family. I was very happy to see a diverse group of people here too," said Babauta. "One of the kids with us found the bronze egg. Most of the prizes they won were school supplies, which I'm very happy about too!"

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said he's happy that the Rotary Club Easter egg hunt was a success. "There was a lot of kids this morning participating, and I'm sure

they enjoyed themselves. It rained a little bit and dampened things, but the sun's back out and they continued to enjoy it. Coming out here and doing their run to find those eggs—that's exercise also," he said.

Savannah Relox Delos Santos, 2021 CNMI's Miss Marianas, attended as one of the Egg Decoration contest judges. "I was really excited and proud of the community coming together for this event. I believe [an] event like this is really important to have, especially during these current times. It really boosts the spirit of the community, and it was nice to see everyone. That was really awesome because just judging in general, I realized how much talent our youth had. And it was really nice to see the artwork that they did on the eggs," Delos Santos said.

Maria Lael Terlaje, 2020 CNMI's Miss Earth, also came as a judge for the art contest. "It was actually my very first time being a judge. Seeing everyone's creativity with their own input on how they see the island [and] at the same time putting it into an Easter theme was awesome," said Terlaje.



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Bill seeks to ease citizenship path for American Samoans

WASHINGTON, D.C.—American Samoa Delegate Uifa'atali Amata has introduced a bill in the 117th Congress that would enable any U.S. national who wishes to do so to convert to U.S. citizenship through a simplified procedure with the office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The House bill, H.R. 1941, is co-sponsored by the members of the House from the four other U.S. island territories: Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I greatly appreciate the support of my colleagues," said Amata, who wrote each of them recently to ask them to underscore the importance of self-determination in any

federal action that involves political status or political relationship with the U.S.

Speaking of the five territories, Amata noted that the U.S. exercises sovereignty over all of them and that the inhabitants of each who owe permanent allegiance to the United States all are Americans. "We all carry U.S. passports, we all can move freely about the U.S. without restriction, our school systems are modeled after those in the states, we can reside anywhere we choose in the U.S., and we all enjoy self-government based on the U.S. model of separation of powers among the three branches.

"At the same time, none of us has voting representation in Congress and are unable

to vote for president because the U.S. Constitution does not provide for territorial membership in the Electoral College," she continued. "However, while we have much in common, there are some substantial, fundamental differences that set us apart from our four sister territories.

"Unlike the other four, the U.S. did not acquire sovereignty over American Samoa as a result of military conquest or sale by a European or Asian metropolitan country. Unlike the others, we control our own borders and customs service and we are not part of the fed-

eral judicial system. While we all are Americans, most American Samoans are U.S. nationals, an option not available to residents of any other state or territory. As our governor, Lemanu P.S. Mauga, said in recent letters to his gubernatorial colleagues in the territories: 'I am writing you today to advise you that the majority of our people prefer to maintain our status as nationals and ask that you not support any efforts to impose citizenship on us by court fiat.'"

If enacted by Congress and approved by President Biden, U.S. nationals at their option

would be able to convert to citizenship and, if living in the states or District of Columbia, be able to vote in presidential

elections and hold certain federal jobs that require citizenship to obtain security clearances. (PR)

Federal contracting webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in April. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **April 8 – Federal contract opportunities** – The federal government lists their opportunities at Beta.sam.gov. We will show you how to set up an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ **April 15 – Marketing to the federal government** – The government buys products and services

differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company in "the system".

■ **April 22 – Wages** – Different federal contracts require different wage rates. Which wage do you pay your employees on government contracts? The Guam PTAC will discuss the various laws and regulations to make sure you stay in compliance.

■ **April 29 – Government of Guam procurement** – The Guam PTAC will explain government of Guam procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

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DCRM SUMMER INTERNSHIP



The Division of Coastal Resources Management is looking for 15 CNMI-based college students or college-bound high school graduates with an interest in learning more about coral reef and coastal zone management. Our summer interns work 20 hours a week for 10 weeks from June to August and are paid \$10.00 per hour.

To be considered, please submit the following documents by email to outreach@dcrm.gov.mp

CNMI EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

Which can be found at www.cnmiopm.net

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RESUME/CV

TRANSCRIPTS

Official or Unofficial

TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Instructors and/or Employers Only

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WOMEN IN MUSIC

Kaitlyn Balgoa and Tricia Manglona are recognized by first lady Diann Torres, Wella Palacios, and the Women's Affairs Office on Rota through the Recognition of Women in Music Program for their impact as musicians in the Marianas. The awardees were also joined by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, 2021 Miss Marianas Savannah Delos Santos, and countless other volunteers and sponsors for their recognition. Congratulations to both women on their contribution to music throughout the Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ARMY

From Page 1

plete a 30-day mission assignment to augment Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. medical providers in their campaign to vaccinate the CNMI community.

Following the medical team's arrival, CHCC chief operating officer Subroto Banerji provided the soldiers with a tour of the CHCC Medical Care and Treatment Site, or MCATS, where the team would soon integrate with CHCC staff, review procedures, and begin providing COVID-19 vaccine doses to community members.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed gratitude for the assistance that the

medical team has provided to bolster CHCC's "Vaccinate CNMI" mission.

"The 12-member U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division Vaccination Support Team will provide tremendous support in supplementing ongoing requirements by CHCC and the Task Force as we expand vaccination efforts at the MCATS and during the homebound vaccination program that CHCC and the Task Force is going to be rolling out soon," said Torres. "I would like to extend my appreciation to INDOPACOM and USARPAC for their partnership and to the 25th ID Vaccination Team who are here on the ground."

Rear Adm. John Menoni, commander, Joint Region Marianas,

echoed Torres' sentiments regarding the team's mission to Saipan. "I'm truly grateful for the men and women of the 25th Infantry Division medical team and their assistance to our partners in the CNMI," said Menoni. "The fight against COVID-19 is an all-hands effort and I'm proud that these soldiers are directly contributing to the CHCC vaccination campaign and helping to protect the health of the CNMI community."

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, through U.S. Army Pacific, remains committed to providing continued, flexible Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of the whole-of-government response to COVID-19. (PR)



Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief operating officer Subroto Banerji, right, briefs incoming U.S. Army medics, assigned to 25th Infantry Division, who will support CHCC's vaccination team in administering COVID-19 vaccines to community members on Saipan. At left is CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

U.S. NAVY/BRAD RUSZALA

VACCINES

From Page 1

Speaking at the radio news briefing last Thursday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said the SolGent Co. team from South Korea will be arriving on April 20 to help with the CBT.

Although the CNMI has already resumed its CBT at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, Muña says a limited number of people are getting tested because CHCC is still continuing with its on-arrival and fifth-day testing.

With the additional 17,100 COVID-19 vaccine doses that CHCC received last Friday, this means 8,550 individuals will be vaccinated (since it will require two shots of the vaccine to ensure full vaccination). It was not immediately learned which brand of vaccines are: Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Inc.

This comes as even more vaccines are slated for the CNMI. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine data, the CNMI is set to receive 1,600 more of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen one-shot doses today.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), this allocation is a 300% increase over last week's allocation. The Janssen vaccine allocation overall total for the CNMI is 2,600.

For those interested in getting the vaccine, CHCC recommends registering on vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone by calling (670) 682-7468. On-site registration is also available at the IT&E Chalan Laulau for future dates for those 16-plus or older on Saipan who aren't available to register online or over the phone.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Joint Information Center on

Guam reported that the Department of Public Health and Social Services announced two late reportings of COVID-19-related deaths last April 2, bringing the island's cumulative total to 136.

According to JIC, the 135th COVID-19-related fatality occurred on Sept. 23, 2020. JIC said the patient was a 51-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She was admitted to the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on Aug. 28, 2020, and tested positive upon admission.

The second late reported death, which is the 136th COVID-19-related fatality, occurred last Jan. 11, 2021. The patient was an 80-year-old female with underlying health conditions. JIC said she was admitted to the Guam Memorial Hospital on Nov. 29, 2020, and tested positive upon admission.

The patient passed away at home after being discharged from GMH.

Dementia conference series enters final week

The Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam's School of Health will be hosting the fourth and final week of its Dementia Awareness Conference Series to provide education, training, and awareness on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

The sessions are free and open to the public in Guam and all of Micronesia. The virtual conference series is divided into three tracks: for health professionals, for the Micronesian communities, and for the general public.

For Health Professionals:

"Advanced Care Planning"
Presented by Delores Lee, M.D., and Annamma S. Varghese, DNP, CMSRN
Time: 3pm – 5pm (ChST)
Date: Tuesday, April 6
Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/gwephp2021>

*Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available as part of this track.

For the Micronesian Communities:

"Advanced Care Planning"
Presented by Delores Lee, M.D., and Annamma S. Varghese, DNP, CMSRN
Time: 6pm – 8pm (ChST)
Date: Wednesday, April 7
Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/gwepmc2021>

For the General Public:

"Elder Justice Center"

Presented by David Highsmith, J.D., and Kathleen L.G. Moylan

"Fun and Simple Activities for Seniors with Dementia"

Presented by Anthony John Ada, Jr., DrPH

Time: 6pm – 8pm (ChST)

Date: Thursday, April 8

Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/gwepgp2021>

For more information, contact the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program at uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu.

About the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

The primary goal of Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is to transform the health systems serving the region's elderly and individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias resulting in improved quality of life.

The program aims to fill gaps in elderly care in the region through:

- workforce development;
- family and caregiver training;
- engaged community networks and partnerships; and
- enhancement of the University of Guam nursing assistant training program.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of an award totaling \$974,852 with zero percentage financed with non-governmental sources. (PR)

FEMA

From Page 1

must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien," the delegate said.

There were two reported deaths from COVID-19 in the CNMI. The first happened on March 30, 2020, at the Kanoa Resort quarantine site, while the second was on April 7, 2020 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Sablan said that multiple indi-

viduals who contributed to foot the expenses must file under one application. Assistance is limited to a maximum amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,000 per application.

FEMA encourages potential applicants to gather documentation that will be needed for the claim, such as official death certificate indicating death "may have been caused by" or "was likely the result of" COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms and funeral expense receipts.

FISHERMEN

From Page 1

Sablan said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries division announced last Monday that the additional funds are provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 for areas with coastal and marine fishery participants who have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

He said the funding will support activities previously authorized under Section 1205 of the Coronavirus, Recovery, and Economic Security Act, which provided \$1 million to impacted Marianas fishers to offset losses caused by the pandemic to commercial, subsistence, cultural or ceremonial fishing.

"Eligible fishery participants include commercial fishing businesses, charter/for-hire fishing businesses, aquaculture operations, processors, and other fishery-relate businesses," Sablan said.

The delegate said that, similar to

the first round of funding, the Commonwealth must now develop a spending plan to be approved by NOAA, before payments can be made to eligible applicants.

Last December, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny Pangelinan announced the allocation of \$980,000, after the NOAA approved the CNMI's CARES Act "Spending Plan."

Pangelinan then stated that foreign workers—worker under the CNMI-Only Transitional Workers program—are eligible for such program.

He said to qualify, these CW workers must be in the fishing industry and are here to legally or have a current approved immigration status.

The distribution of assistance checks to approved businesses and fishermen will be made directly via mail from the NOAA Hawaii Office between May 3 and June 16, 2021.

The CNMI government is not going to release the money; it's the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

CPA extends incentive program to tenants at airports, seaports

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has extended to Sept. 30, 2021, its tenant incentive program that gives 50% discount to all its tenants at CNMI airports and seaports.

The CPA board of directors agreed to extend the program at a board meeting last Wednesday, citing the extreme negative impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on airlines, the tourism-based businesses' revenues, and the Commonwealth econo-

my. The program was originally supposed to expire last Wednesday.

CPA executive director Norman Tenorio recommended extending the incentive program all the way to Dec. 31, 2021, but all five board directors present at the meeting voted to extend it

only until the end of fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2021.

In an interview during a break of the meeting, CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said the discount includes the incentive program that currently gives a 50% discount to all airlines as it relates

to enplanement fees, deplanement fees, and landing fees.

"Right now, the agreement is a compromise. Instead of extending it all the way to December, we're going to extend it up into the end of the fiscal year this year, which is actually kind of good for budget-

ary planning purposes," King-Hinds said.

CPA staff attorney Joseph M. Hallahan noted that in the prior resolution that was signed in January 2021, it states that Tenorio is authorized to extend the time period if there's no change of circumstances related to COVID-19.

In April 2020, the board agreed that providing rental relief to CPA airport tenants is reasonable.

In July 2020, the board issued CPA Resolution 2020-06, which provided enplanement, deplanement, and landing fee discounts from July 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020.

In August 2020, the board agreed that the rental relief provided to CPA airport tenants in April 2020 was insufficient and therefore revised and provided additional rental relief to CPA airport tenants.

In December 2020, the board agreed that COVID-19 continues to have a negative fiscal impact on airlines and that an extension of the rental relief measures was warranted.



King-Hinds

Repainting of skatepark now complete

Members of the House of Representatives minority bloc and their staff finally completed the repainting of the Garapan Skate Park last March 26.

According to Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who is the minority bloc spokesman, the idea of revamping the skatepark came from a member of the skating community, who approached the lawmakers with a request make some improvements to the skatepark.

The results of that request can be seen on the newly-painted marine-themed images that now decorate the park, which is located behind the Garapan Roundhouse.

Rep. Joel Castro Camacho (R-Saipan), who played a big part in the artistry and design of the park, said, "This was a lot of fun, I'm always ex-



Skateboard enthusiasts try out the newly repainted Garapan Skate Park.

NEIL FAMA

cited to get the opportunity to paint on bigger walls, and it's especially fun when you get to work on these types of projects with your colleagues. Before we got started, the condition of the park was re-

ally bad. There was so much algae and graffiti with a lot of profanity, which must have made parents uncomfortable to have their kids utilize the park and be exposed to those things. I would like to keep

this movement continuing. There's so much potential for more art to be made throughout the entire CNMI, in hopes that when our tourist market comes back, they have these beautiful sites that will at-

tract them."

Much of the paints used for this project were donated by the private sector, which also helped with the water-blasting and some minor repairs. *(Neil Fama)*

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CNMI EXPECTS TO GET \$85M IN INITIAL 3RD STIMULUS PAYMENTS

DOF prepares to request for additional money for stimulus

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While the CNMI Department of Finance expects to receive about \$85 million for the first distribution of the third stimulus

payments, it expects to get an estimated \$120 million-plus in all, said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig Thursday.

"It's a moving target," said Atalig.

Speaking at the Torres ad-

ministration's regular news briefing on radio, Atalig said they're already prepared to submit a request for additional funds. "Keep in mind, the second stimulus was \$600 per taxpayer, and we distrib-

uted well over \$52 million," he said.

From \$600 to \$1,400 per taxpayer is about a 60% increase in stimulus funds, Atalig said, so the CNMI should get way over \$100 million in stimulus funds for distribution.

Virtual Industry Day highlights DOD contracting opportunities

By **JOANNA DELFIN**
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING
COMMAND PACIFIC

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas and NAVFAC Pacific, in coordination with the CNMI Procurement Technical Assistance Center, hosted a virtual industry day last March 23 and 24.

Rear Adm. John Adametz, commander, NAVFAC Pacific, delivered remarks and expressed appreciation for the CNMI and participants for their partnership in ensuring mission readiness capabilities.

"On behalf of NAVFAC, we are excited to partner with the CNMI government and industry leaders in leaning forward to convey a sense of urgency on the upcoming construction efforts planned for Tinian,"

He said the U.S. Internal Revenue Service gives the CNMI about 80% of their estimates as part of the first transfer.

"So we'll use that figure to get all those out," he said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said

he said. "I want to thank everyone who took part in organizing and participating in this industry day, and we look forward to continued partnering and relationship building throughout the process."

During the two-day event, NAVFAC Pacific and NAVFAC Marianas provided information and updates to attendees regarding the Guam military buildup and Tinian divert airfield, and an overview of the organization's small business programs. The newly-formed CNMI PTAC also outlined their office's capabilities and upcoming events to allow subcontractors the opportunity to actively engage with prime contractors and the Department of Defense.

"NAVFAC has an outstanding relationship with our small business communities and we

the American Rescue Plan reduces eligibility for the \$1,400 rebate so no individual making more than \$80,000 qualifies, a change that should have little impact in the Marianas.

Finance expects the third stimulus to be processed this week or next week.

could not be more grateful for these businesses," said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Tim Liberatore. "The hard work and support you provide to our mission and operational requirements [are] absolutely outstanding. In turn, we look to provide positive economic benefits wherever there is a military footprint."

Day 2 of the event included breakout sessions and networking rooms for participants to engage in active conversations about future working relationships. Key representatives from nine DoD prime contractors presented information on their respective business portfolios, what products and services they are seeking, and provide insight on how subcontractors can do business with them.

"I am pleased that we were able to provide the [CNMI] government and business community with an update on the progress of the large U.S. Marine Corps and Government of Japan-funded construction program on Guam," said Will Boudra, NAVFAC Pacific Guam Program Management Office director. "I know that our contractors appreciated having the opportunity to connect with new potential subcontractors and workers who participated in this two-day event. We look forward to providing this type of update on a regular basis."

Gov. Ralph Torres thanked DoD partners including the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, NAVFAC Pacific and NAVFAC Marianas, Joint Region Marianas, and Officer in Charge of Construction Marine Corps Marianas for hosting the event and providing valuable information for small businesses looking to do work with the federal government.

"I would like to thank Adm. Phillip Davidson, Maj. Gen. Suzie Vares-Lum, Rear Adm. John Adametz, Rear Adm. John Menoni, Capt. Tim Liberatore, and Capt. Steven Stasick for recognizing the important role of the CNMI community in supporting our nation and military," he said. "The CNMI community truly [has] the passion and skills to compete at all levels of commerce and the Industry Day event is only one of the many pathways for CNMI businesses and entrepreneurs to enter into the arena, in support of our national security."

Villagomez reiterates with PSS importance of 'strictly observing' COVID-19 protocols

By **NEIL FAMA**
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the proposal to expand the number of students per classroom at the Public School System, COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez re-emphasized the need to observe the three W's as a means to effectively combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a meeting between the PSS officials and Villagomez, he reiterated the need to faithfully observe the three W's of fighting the pandemic—wear a mask, wash your hands, wait at a distance—in discussing PSS' future plans for summer school and fall classes for 2021.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said in a phone interview that the main topics of the meeting were the school schedule in preparation for summer school and fall classes and a proposal to expand the number of students per classroom, which may lessen the seating distances between students from 6 feet to 3 feet.

However, Villagomez reminded everyone about the science of air droplets being able to travel 30 feet in the air, so he suggested that the 6-foot rule be maintained inside classrooms.

Villagomez also added that the use of face shields would be a much better choice instead of the installation of par-

titions between seats.

"To increase the number of students per cohort would mean to increase the strictness of COVID-19 protocols," Villagomez said.

Ada also cited a recent proposal from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the idea of vaccinating teens, which raised the idea of vaccinating high schoolers first—those who are 12 to 15 years old—instead of elementary students.

"As of today, we must not put our guards down. We must not be complacent. COVID-19 is still present. Please remain patient and take care of our youth. Their education is a big responsibility but we always remind ourselves that safety should always be our main priority," Ada said.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-CHCC/RHC-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 6th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"ROTA HEALTH CENTER-NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-SAMB/GAR-072**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 07, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS I SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES (SUV) FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REP.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

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Please contact Rani
at shivrani10@gmail.com or
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The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking for the right person to serve as Executive Director who shall be responsible for implementing the mission and policies set by the Board of Directors while working with the Board to develop and implement both short- and long-term strategic plans for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The Executive Director reports to the Board and is responsible for the overall day to day operations of the Chamber. Duties include managing the SCC's programs, facility, fundraising, financials, and staff; taking a lead role in development efforts; providing the primary liaison between staff and the Board/subcommittees; and providing reports to the Board on the management of the organization.

For a complete job description and to apply, please visit <https://www.saipanchamber.com/jobopportunities/>. Applications will be received on a rolling basis until the position is filled, with priority to those who apply before April 16th, 2021.

we're hiring an

Executive Director

to learn more and apply, visit
[saipanchamber.com/jobopportunities](https://www.saipanchamber.com/jobopportunities/)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (03/11/2021)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 1. Fund Status Report
 2. Practice Monitor Report — April 1, 2021 (M. Bellama)
 3. Upcoming Virtual meetings
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - Memo — Cancellation of Reduction Hours
 - B. Legislature
 - S.B. #22-34 — Medical Assistants
- X. Old Business
 1. Gail Labatete - SCW
 2. Thomas Endicott - Dentist
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

Name: Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut
Address: P.O. Box 505616 Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 233-7678 (Work)

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut)
(Name of Father))

P.J.E.R.) FCD PA
(Name of Child)) CIVIL ACTION
Minor Child) NO. 21-0030
Plaintiffs,)
vs.) **SUMMONS**
Jhumilyn S. Esposo)
(Name of Mother))
Defendant,)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut whose address is P.O. Box 505616 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2021

/s/ _____
Clerk of Court

45 AGs join forces vs fake COVID vaccine cards

GREENSBORO, N.C.—North Carolina is leading the fight against fake CDC vaccination cards for sale online. State Attorney General Josh Stein and the Tennessee AG rallied their counterparts—45

total Attorneys General signed this letter.

The document calls on the CEOs of Twitter, eBay, and Shopify and asks them to take immediate action to monitor their platforms for the fake

cards, to promptly take the ads down, and to preserve records about the ads so the states can take action against the sellers.

In their letter, the attorneys general ask the CEOs to:

■ Monitor their platforms

for ads or links selling blank or fraudulently-completed vaccination cards.

■ Promptly take down ads or links that are selling cards.

■ Preserve records and information about the ads and the people who were selling them.

Stein said sellers could face

a fine of \$5,000 per violation.

“If anyone out there sees any one of these cards, let my office know because it’s a violation of state law. It would be deceptive. You cannot sell a card purporting to be from the CDC if you are not the CDC,” said Stein.

Stein says these fake vac-

cine cards put us all at risk and the people who buy these cards are prolonging measures most of us wish would go away.

AG’s who signed the letter: Stein and Attorney General Slatery are joined in sending this letter by the Attorneys General of Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. (*WCNC.com*)

NMC alumna Min Jung Song a Proa once again

Northern Marianas College nursing graduate Min Jung “Mindy” Song is back in the classrooms of NMC, this time instead of listening to lectures she’s giving them.

A registered nurse for more than four years now, Song is now an adjunct nursing instructor at the college. When she isn’t working as a staff nurse at the Medical-Surgical unit of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., she teaches nursing skills to NMC nursing students.

“Education and nursing have always been my passion,” Song said. “One of my personal goals is to be a nurse educator, and being able to be an adjunct at NMC will help me be able to use my clinical skills and knowledge to help prepare the next generation of nurses.”

Right after graduating from the college in 2016 and pass-

ing her NCLEX-RN, Song started working as a staff RN for the CHCC. She then enlisted in the U.S. Army, and from there, was able to earn her bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Western Governors University.



Song

On being back at NMC, Song said that it is rewarding to be able to teach future nurses.

“Honestly, it was a little weird at first, because I was in those same seats not too long ago,” Song said. “It feels good, though. I see myself in a lot of the students.”

Song teaches 23 first-year and 20 second-year nursing students this semester. She is able to teach her students in a face-to-face setting, but because of the pandemic, her class sizes are smaller.

“We had to divide the classes into two sections because of social distancing, but I’m able to easily interact with all of my

students because of the small class sizes,” Song said.

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan said she is glad to see her former student back at the college.

“Her years of nursing experience and actively working in the clinical setting is very beneficial to our students,” Aldan said, “We at the Nursing Department are proud of her accomplishments and her willingness to teach our students to be a well-rounded nurse like her and many of our nursing graduates, who also further pursued their nursing education.”

The college continues to see improvements in all of its programs, including nursing. In 2020, approximately 85% of the students who graduated from NMC with their associate degree in nursing passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses on their first attempt. This pass rate is higher than the previous year’s pass rate. (*PR*)

SINMI monthly meeting this Thursday

The monthly meeting of the Soroptimist of the Northern Mariana Islands, or SINMI, is this Thursday, April 8, at 12 noon. The luncheon meeting will be held at the new Island Cafe on Middle Road in their private back room. You can park around the back side of the restaurant.

We will be ordering from the menu. Please join us. We are looking to grow our club and will be discussing our big “Fun-Raiser,” the Margarita-

ville, May 14, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Tickets are \$25 with bottomless margaritas, finger food, and raffle prizes. All funds raised go toward their Live Your Dream Award in October.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. They celebrate their 100th birthday this year. (*PR*)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Available for Public Review & Comment

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Consolidated Plan (PY2020-2024) and PY2020 Annual Action Plan

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability for public review and comment, the NMHC Consolidated Plan 2020-2024 (ConPlan) and the Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

The ConPlan & AAP are mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds received by NMHC. NMHC is the Grantee of these HUD funds. NMHC administers CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs on behalf of the CNMI.

The ConPlan 2020-2024 sets forth NMHC’s plan for supporting low-and-moderate-income populations through the creation and preservation of decent housing, sustainable living environments, and economic opportunities for the next five years. The PY2020 AAP identifies NMHC’s proposed use of HUD PY2020 CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds totaling \$1,505,032.00 for the first year of this ConPlan cycle. A detailed list of the proposed projects and activities are shown below.

Community Development Block Grant		Project Sponsor	Project Type	Amount
1	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Purchase of (2) Wildland Trucks	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	Public Facility	\$ 280,000.00
2	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	Public Facility	\$ 200,000.00
3	Tinian Children’s Park Improvement	Tinian Office of the Mayor	Public Facility	\$ 288,977.60
4	Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	Program Administration	\$ 192,244.40
				\$ 961,222.00
Emergency Solutions Grant		Project Sponsor	Project Type	Amount
4	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Assistance/ Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	NMHC	Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Rehousing	\$ 65,879.75
5	ESG Administrative Cost	NMHC	Program Administration	\$ 5,990.25
6	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	NMHC	HMIS	\$ 8,000
				\$ 79,870.00
HOME Investment Partnership Grant		Project Sponsor	Project Type	Amount
7	HOME Rehabilitation Program	NMHC	Affordable Housing	\$ 394,349.00
8	HOME Administration	NMHC	Program Administration	\$ 69,591.00
				\$ 463,940.00

The ConPlan/AAP will be available electronically on NMHC’s website at www.nmhc.gov.net. If you would like to obtain a copy or require additional information please contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at 234-6866 or by email at deputydirector@nmhc.gov.net.

NMHC is inviting the public to comment on the proposed ConPlan and AAP. NMHC supports pandemic safety protocols and current mandated social distancing requirements. A virtual public hearing will be held on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Login information may be found on NMHC’s website.

Any person(s), agency, or organization wishing to comment on the ConPlan/AAP are encouraged to do so by submitting written comments to the NMHC main office at Garapan, Saipan, and/or to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, no later than 4:30 pm Monday, April 12, 2021. Written comments may also be submitted via facsimile at (670)234-9021 or by submitting via email to deputydirector@nmhc.gov.net. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 pm Monday, April 12, 2021. Should you require special accommodations, please contact Ms. Mafnas, at the NMHC main office, at 670-234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD CPD funds



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

Request for Qualification of Statements for Project Management Services for the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program RFQ21-GOV-051

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Hazard Mitigation Program, Office of the Governor (collectively, “Commonwealth”) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Project Management Services for the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Projects in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or the latest revision. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The selected Project Manager(s) (PM) will be retained as independent contractors under the Contracting Officer’s general provision or his/her designee. The PM will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within the cost, time, and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. The project management services are for a one-year contract with the option to renew for an additional year at the Commonwealth’s discretion.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable Scope of Work and submittal requirements at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning **Monday, March 22, 2021**, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) or electronic mail (request to Tiana T. Reyes; treyes@omb.gov.mp).

A pre-proposal conference will be conducted by Zoom Web Conference on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. ChST**. An invitation will be emailed to all interested parties. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email: ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp or to fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than **Friday, April 9, 2021, 4:00 p.m. ChST**.

Selection of firms or individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305.

The evaluation will be on statements of professional qualification and the following criteria:

- Overall qualifications in project (design/construction) management - (30%)
- Experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope, - (30%)
- Project approach and performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed project (design/construction) management - (30%)
- Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (10%)
- Fee (0%)

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and a CNMI Board of Professional Licensing Certificate of Authorization to practice as an Engineer or Architect. Statements of qualification can be a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 and shall not exceed 30 pages.

All of the documents listed above are considered material elements of the proposal. Failure to submit any of the documents listed above in the required format will result in classification as a non-responsive proposer and removed from further consideration.

Qualification statements must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-051 PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 404 HMGP PROJECTS**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original, two (2) copies, and a USB flashdrive of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, Thursday, April 22, 2021**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, Thursday, April 22, 2021** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to f.aguon@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original, two (2) copies, and a USB flashdrive of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Thursday, April 22, 2021**. They must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **Monday, May 3, 2021**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may cause a proposal’s rejection.

/s/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor’s Authorized Representative

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't tell us what to read; Beverly Cleary and Dr. Seuss were products of their time

The attempt of the Republican right wing to exploit the cultural divisions of Americans may be cynical and unhelpful, but that does not mean the divisions are not very real.

It is true that there are probably more urgent things to talk about than the removal of six books by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) from the market. They are not being banned or burned, just not reproduced going forward.

But it is nevertheless troubling when someone, anyone, especially a mob, or the state, tells the rest of us what to read.

In this case it was Dr. Seuss Enterprises, the business that oversees Geisel's estate.

It is troubling when the standards of today are applied to yesterday. (Even Lincoln, and definitely Jefferson, cannot measure up in that case.)

And it is perhaps most troubling when the whole of a person's life is reduced to one moment, one page, or one sentence and that life is then distorted and, eventually, canceled.

Pulling those books is not the worst thing. The fact that Dr. Seuss will now have the pall, and odor, of racism hanging over his legacy is the worst thing. For this was a man who strove to learn, and to change and to understand. And the thrust of his books, as a whole, is strongly toward pluralism, toleration and reconciliation.

Now there will be a chilling effect. More and more people will shy away from all of his books. He is marked. Suspect. Tainted.

The irony is that the good doctor himself (he was not one, of course) might well have decided to rewrite those six books, or pull them himself, were he still alive. For there are some things in those books that are painful to see and read today, and things that are just wrong, and would probably be painful for him.

But there is painful stuff in Twain, in Hemingway, and in Ellison—some of it intended, some of it not. If we want to be honest about our past, we have to look at it as it was. All of it.

And, in a free society, the choice of what to read and not read is up to the author and the reader. He offers, retracts, rewrites; the reader, the market takes it from there. We don't need chaperones.

We either believe in free minds and people or we do not.

We either believe in the freedom of literature and honest history, and the long arc of justice, or we do not.

The children's author Beverly Cleary died just last week, at the amazing age of 104. She worked into her 90s. She was a very different writer than Dr. Seuss. He was a fantasist; she was a realist. He wrote extended jokes; she wrote carefully observed fiction for the young. His characters were cartoons and hers were deeply honest and soulful.

And she happens to be politically correct—as of today. She celebrates the ordinary kid. She celebrates girls. One of her great characters, Ramona, is an assertive girl.

See BEVERLY on Next Page



Catholics need to evolve on same-sex marriage

Those who hoped the Catholic Church might be evolving on marriage equality recently got a rude slap. The Vatican not only decreed that the Church would not bless same-sex marriages, but labeled being gay itself as sinful—or, in Catholic jargon, “a choice and a way of life that cannot be recognized as objectively ordered to the revealed plans of God.”

This might please traditionalists, who tend to see God's plans as both sacred and immutable. But how these plans are revealed to religious leaders has, in fact, changed frequently over the centuries. There's good reason to think more change is necessary now.

Consider, for example, the delicate problem described in Acts 15. Back in the first century, the early Christians had problems recruiting converts. A major obstacle was whether membership required obeying all the ceremonial laws handed down by Moses—including circumcision. Observing that this curbed adults' enthusiasm for following Christ, his disciples simply took Mosaic Law down a notch: “It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right.”

This was both welcoming and wise. But note how much the remaining “necessities” dealt with practical matters such as public health. The “revealed plans of God,” it seems, often involve prescriptions aimed at enhancing the survival chances of His followers and, therefore, growing His flock. And as conditions change, so might those prescriptions. Here, a medical procedure with only minor health benefits and some risks was dumped, while other orders relating to healthy food preparation in that pre-refrigeration age were left intact—for a while.

Then there's the part that troubles us today—that “unlawful marriage” is not “right.” If the Holy Spirit didn't nudge Christ's disciples in the direction of same-sex marriage in A.D. 50, why change now? The simple answer—that times have changed—is unpersuasive to traditionalists. More correctly and completely, the conditions that made this traditional prescription useful and conducive to expanding the Christian flock have changed. If God's plan is for Christianity to grow and flourish, it's time for Christians to see same-sex marriage as lawful and right.

For millennia, life was, in the famous words of Hobbes, “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” Technology was static; producing more food or other output required more hands, which meant having lots of children. And if one beat the odds and sur-

By **STEPHEN J.K. WALTERS**
The Baltimore Sun

Stephen J.K. Walters is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Loyola University Maryland and author of *Boom Towns: Restoring the Urban American Dream*. Email: swalters@loyola.edu.



vived into old age, one's pension was one's children. Societies and religious denominations thus made childbearing and -rearing a high priority; it was no surprise that artificial birth control or gay conduct was discouraged.

But those days are over. Thanks to the Industrial Revolution, financial institutions that enable us to grow and store our wealth, and amazing innovations that boost our productivity, most of us now make it to and through retirement without relying on our kids—and can avoid being a burden on society even if we don't have any.

In short, the practical reasons for making procreation the central focus of adult life and of marriage—and, therefore, for focusing on the “one man, one woman” definition thereof—are no longer operative. Yes, we should protect all life and celebrate when more of it is created, but there's no longer a real reason to insist that everyone's highest calling is to do so. We will survive and thrive as a society when a heterosexual couple chooses to have two children instead of four—or none at all. Ditto when gay couples form families of whatever size.

Traditionalists argue that civil unions can secure for gay couples all the rights of marriage without radically redefining a venerable institution. But when couples enter into holy matrimony as part of a religious community, they make vows of fidelity, devotion “in sickness and in health,” and much else that is more truly binding. Such commitments make families and congregations stronger; they are today more important than expectations of procreation were in a bygone age, and should be encouraged and supported by all religious denominations.

When Christ's disciples debated the wisdom of adherence to ancient principles, they worried that “some of our number ... have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind.” Many Christian leaders face the same problem today with respect to same-sex marriage; their unwelcoming stance is shrinking their flock. We can only pray that, in time, they will come to see that as inconsistent with the “revealed plans of God,” properly understood.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We must never forget

The Chamorro people of the Marianas Islands chain have been intimate companions with conflict and state-sponsored violence during World War II. Our families living in the Northern Islands at the time were loyal to the Japanese empire, while in Guam, most of our families were loyal to the American empire. All our families transformed from relatively peaceful villagers into battlefield participants of varying degrees from living through World War II because our island chain became a deadly hot war zone not of our own making.

Generations of military veterans

Today, generations of Chamorros have proudly worn or currently wear the uniforms of the U.S. military. This has resulted in several Chamorro families creating for themselves legacies of military service found in all branches of the armed forces. Chamorros fought in Korea, Vietnam, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere on land, air, undersea and at sea level. Our Chamorro people own the distinction of having some of the highest per capita killed-in-action rates of any population within the American empire yet remain institutionally restrained and discriminated from exercising national political rights such as voting for president, having a voting representative in Congress, and having a vote in the electoral college.

We must never forget our Vietnam veterans

This past week was Vietnam Veterans Day, a holiday established by former President Barack Obama in 2012 to recognize those who fought and died in this geopolitical imbroglio. It has been almost 50 years since this horrible conflict ended. Chamorro Vietnam veterans have yet to see a parade welcoming them back home from war. Several veterans, including ones personally known by this op-ed writer, died from complications tied to Agent Orange exposure during their time in service and/or were coping with PTSD before they passed.

The uniqueness of the Vietnam veteran of Chamorro Pacific Islander ancestry

Chamorro soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who served in Vietnam were unique in several ways.

First, this generation was one whose first language was Chamorro, not English [this fact in and of itself is worthy of a much lengthier discussion]. Many of those who served in Vietnam not only lived through the horrors of conflict in Southeast Asia, but

also experienced the catastrophic effects of World War II captivity in Guam and the series of follow-on human rights injustices and environmental damage [re]introduced to our island and our ancient Pacific Islander civilization by the American military machine after Guam was retaken.

Yet, it was this generation of villagers—the Vietnam veteran generation—that in some instances expressed the desire to give back to the United States empire for recapturing Guam from the Japanese on July 21, 1944, despite America abandoning the island and Guam's Chamorro people in 1941.

Our Chamorro veterans performed their jobs with distinction, unwavering bravery and under great uncertainty amid a national political climate that questioned the wisdom and moral correctness of America's stated policy to "contain communism."

As thousands of citizens throughout the American empire remained ambivalent toward the Vietnam conflict, Guam and the Chamorro people appeared less conflicted over the factors that informed American military policy, intervention, and strategy toward Southeast Asia.

Regional VA medical center needed

Those Vietnam veterans who returned home to Guam after serving on active duty never had the opportunity to take full advantage of resources provided through a regional VA medical center because one was never built on island. Now is the time to build a comprehensive VA medical center that also provides a full range of mental health services. Veterans deserve it because the existing community-based clinic system and benefits footprint is inadequate to meet all the needs of approximately 16,000 veterans.

Some people may not understand that Guam and the CNMI have disproportionate numbers of veterans as a percentage of the total island chain population. Some may not realize that suicide amongst veterans also remains a real ongoing concern—as is suicide in general—and most people are not aware that younger veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan may have become sick due to burn pit exposures while on deployment.

Guam and CNMI congressmen, where are you?

There are a host of national legislative opportunities to pursue to authorize, fund, and construct a regional VA medical center in the Marianas. One possibility is to see authorization language introduced in the House of Representatives that fully funds all the steps needed to identify, design, build, and operate a regional VA

RICK'S COLUMN**By RICK PEREZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

medical center in Guam. There may be military controlled land available to accommodate such a facility and Congress should be driving this effort.

In addition, an onsite hotel is needed so that vets flying in from other islands have available lodging to help ensure that they make their scheduled appointments. It makes no sense to have to deal with the VA representatives in Hawaii or elsewhere when the medical need is found throughout the Marianas and Micronesia.

A second opportunity exists to introduce authorization language in the House of Representatives that establishes a long-term memorandum of understanding arrangement where the Navy provides the needed space, medical and mental health care delivery services to veterans at Naval Hospital Guam and the VA does its part by fully reimbursing the Navy for all billings incurred.

Third, Congress, the Pentagon and the White House need to take a comprehensive and very close look at all the personnel service records of Chamorro Vietnam veterans who served in combat to see if some of our brave family members of Pacific Islander ancestry merit the Medal of Honor. This presupposes a strong, ongoing, and coordinated effort coming from the CNMI and Guam congressmen.

Lastly, Guam and CNMI government leaders could organize a "Welcome Home" parade for our Chamorro and Pacific Islander Vietnam veterans or sponsor a Marianas Islands wide "Thank You" party once COVID 19 dangers pass. It is never too late to show respect and accord long overdue recognition to honor our Vietnam veterans, most especially those of ancient Chamorro Pacific Islander ancestry.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Four million square miles

That's what you've got, Ambrose.

Four million square miles of the mainland US, where you can own all the land your heart desires.

The U.S. mainland is a big place. A really big place. You've got a land area bigger than China's, with only a fifth of China's population.

Did I say *China*? You realize that Chinese businesses and the Chinese Communist Party will be first in line to buy up CNMI land, right? We're not allowed to own land in China. But if Article 12 is abolished, the Chinese influence will go way beyond a half-finished casino in Garapan. You can bet that our islands will be forever changed: land and culture held by outside interests, not by us NMDs.

I've got nothing against any outsiders, whether from China, Chuuk, or Chicago. I understand that they *want* to buy land here. But by the same token, they should understand that we, the NMDs, *want* to preserve this land for ourselves: our sacred land, our culture, and these 200 square miles that are our only home on this entire planet.

For everyone else, they have four million square miles in the U.S. mainland, or another four million square miles in China.

Lots of room. Lots of places to own land. On these islands, you can lease land all you want, but leave us NMDs to pass the land down through generations.

What's the problem with selling your land to another NMD? Multi-million dollar land sales between NMDs happen all the time. It's not just outsiders who can pay big bucks for land. And if not, then leases are signed all the time, and many NMD families are very happy with the income their land brings them.

We NMDs fully understand that others may want to own a piece of our island. We welcome them with open arms to lease it for 55 years. Who is complaining about that, other than maybe those out to make a fast buck from real estate deals with fly-by-night new arrivals?

If Article 12 is such a hindrance on the economy, how did we have all the big developments of the past, including the '90s boom years, with Article 12 in place? What's so bad about a 55-year lease? It's a reasonable amount of time for a business to operate, and then renegotiate after the time period is up. How many businesses do you know of, even in the U.S. mainland, that stay in the same location for more than 55 years?

Article 12 makes sense. It doesn't interfere with our economic

development. And it's been affirmed as legal by the courts time and time again. Even if Ambrose calls himself a "constitutional scholar," he's not an attorney. Every attorney in Saipan knows that Article 12 is legal and constitutional. Every attorney in Saipan knows that *Wabot v. Villacrusis* confirmed the legality of Article 12, just like every attorney on Saipan knows Godfather's has the coldest beer.

We have some precious exceptions from universal land ownership, because our islands are so small, and our culture so fragile. The U.S. Constitution, U.S. courts, as well as the CNMI's founding elders understood this. Land isn't just dollars. It's not just coordinates on a map. It's the home of our people and our culture. Our only home.

Statesiders have four square million miles to call their own. Citizens of China have another four million square miles. Leave our tiny islands to us, no matter how tempting the quick money deals might be.

Dollars come and go, but once we NMDs have sold our land to outsiders, where do we go?

Diego C. Blanco

via email

BEVERLY

From Page 8

But she also wrote about an America now mostly gone—working-class Americans, all white, in a West Coast town that






looks very different today than 50 or 60 years ago. No one in her books lives in a multiethnic neighborhood or has two dads or two moms.

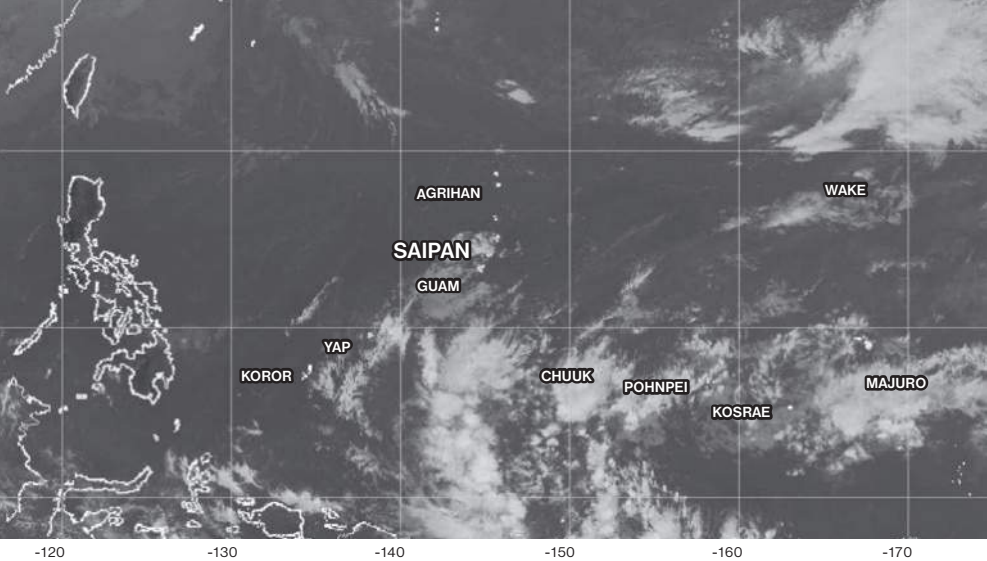
Children's literature today is grappling with the realities children face, today. They face today's world with great resilience and great vulnerability—the two traits in the character of chil-

dren that Cleary examined with such fondness and admiration.

But wouldn't it be a shame if Cleary were sidelined, marginalized or forgotten because she is not modern enough and of this moment? Neither is Tolstoy, Turgenev, Burke or Shakespeare, but we keep them around.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:54 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Visible satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies with the low-level clouds moving in from the east and the upper-level clouds moving in from the southwest. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet composed primarily of east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86 78 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 78 °F	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	84 71 °F	
Chuuk	Overcast	87 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86 80 °F	
Kosrae	Rain	85 79 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	80 79 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:13 AM	12:40 PM	-
Tuesday	2:07 AM	1:38 PM	-
Wednesday	2:56 AM	2:34 PM	-
Thursday	3:41 AM	3:27 PM	-
Friday	4:21 AM	4:18 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	74 60 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	63 42 °F	
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	78 70 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 72 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	59 45 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	74 55 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95 77 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64 49 °F	
Miami	Sunny	82 71 °F	
New York	Sunny	53 41 °F	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	65 46 °F	
Paris	Sunny	72 52 °F	
Pusan	Sunny	67 46 °F	
Rome	Sunny	71 46 °F	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	56 42 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	69 54 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	61 42 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	63 46 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	57 45 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:38 AM	High Tide	1.73	
8:55 AM	Low Tide	1.30	
1:03 PM	High Tide	1.60	
8:57 PM	Low Tide	-0.06	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
				1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
				1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri				
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun				

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Marianas Women in Music



NEIL FAMA

Thirty women were nominated and honored for their musical abilities at the Marianas Women in Music and International Diversity event organized CNMI Women's Affairs Office, in cooperation with first lady Diann Torres and her Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' wife, Wella, and the offices of the Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, last March 26, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Business

Fried chicken, milk tea promotion at Night Scent



Night Scent Restaurant's fried chicken and milk tea promotion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Night Scent Restaurant is having a fried chicken and milk tea promotion as a big thank you to its loyal customers.

As part of the promotion, they are offering eight pieces of their sumptuous fried chicken and two milk teas for the bargain-basement price of \$11. If you want a smaller meal, Night Scent Restaurant also has a \$6 combo package that includes four pieces of fried chicken and one milk tea.

"We believe that during the pandemic, the price of eight fried chicken and two tall glasses of milk tea for \$11 is acceptable to most people," said owner Lin Ming.

So far, she said Night Scent Restaurant has been selling more than a dozen of the fried chicken and milk tea combo meals everyday. "Our customers' feedback has been quite good, with a lot saying that our fried chicken tastes good, are very crispy, and affordable."

One 17-year-old loyal customer said she orders Night

Scent Restaurant's fried chicken and milk tea combo meal every week.

"Night Scent offers affordable meal deals with two of my favorite food, fried chicken and boba milk tea. The chicken is juicy and crispy and pairs well with Night Scent's classic boba milk tea," she said.

A 47-year-old graphic artist who works at a telecommunication company is also a recent convert to Night Scent Restaurant's fried chicken.

"I love the chicken so much since it's the closest taste to my real Pinoy all-time favorite (Jollibee). The skin is crispy yet tender inside and they season it well. The best way to enjoy it is with hot rice and an ice-cold beverage. I've ordered at this restaurant many times and they provide a consistent quality of fried chicken," he said.

Aside from the popular fried chicken and milk tea combo, the Garapan restaurant also prides itself with its authentic Chinese buns, known locally as siopao.

"The filling is pork and cabbage, we use thin wrap-

per and with enough stuffing, and they're very juicy inside. Those who want to order need to call us before 12pm everyday and the buns can be picked up at 5pm," said Ming.

Other bestsellers at Night Scent Restaurant are its sweet and sour pork, sour pork rice bowl, beef broccoli, and chicken steak burrito.

For now, Ming said, they are only open for take-out orders. "Due to the pandemic, we cannot open dine-in for now. It is expected that dine-in will be open after [international] flights return," she said.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Night Scent Restaurant is just happy to stay open and continue to make their loyal customers happy.

"We hope that customers can be happy when they eat the food we provide. Everyone is welcome to order," she said.

Night Scent Restaurant is located along Coral Tree Avenue across Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. It's operating days and hours are Sunday-Saturday from 11am to 10pm. For orders, call 989-1288.



Night Scent Restaurant's Chinese buns or siopao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nation

Source: Suspect in Capitol attack suffered delusions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The man who rammed a car into two officers at a barricade outside the U.S. Capitol, killing one of them before he was shot to death by police, had been suffering from delusions, paranoia and suicidal thoughts, a U.S. official told The Associated Press. Investigators believe it was an isolated incident from a disturbed young man.

Video of the Friday afternoon attack shows the driver emerging from the crashed car with a knife in his hand and starting to run at the pair of officers, Capitol Police acting Chief Yogananda Pittman told reporters. Police shot the suspect, 25-year-old Noah Green, who died at a hospital.

Investigators are increasingly focused on Green's mental health as they work to identify any motive for the attack, said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation and spoke to the AP on Saturday on condition of anonymity. The official said investigators had talked to Green's family, who spoke of his increasingly delusional thoughts.

In online posts since removed, Green described

being under government thought control and said he was being watched. He described himself as a follower of the Nation of Islam and its longtime leader, Louis Farrakhan, and spoke of going through a difficult time when he leaned on his faith. Some of the messages were captured by the group SITE, which tracks online activity.

"To be honest these past few years have been tough, and these past few months have been tougher," he wrote in late March. "I have been tried with some of the biggest, unimaginable tests in my life. I am currently now unemployed after I left my job partly due to afflictions, but ultimately, in search of a spiritual journey."

It was the second line-of-duty death this year for the U.S. Capitol Police, still struggling to heal from the Jan. 6 insurrection. The attack underscored that the building and campus — and the officers charged with protecting them — remain potential targets for violence.

Authorities installed a giant fence around the Capitol perimeter and for months restricted traffic along the roads closest to the building,

but they had begun pulling back some of the emergency measures. And the most recent incident could delay the gradual reopening of the building's grounds to the public.

"I just ask that the public continue to keep U.S. Capitol Police and their families in your prayers," Pittman said. "This has been an extremely difficult time for U.S. Capitol Police after the events of Jan. 6 and now the events that have occurred here today."

Police identified the slain officer as William "Billy" Evans, an 18-year veteran who was a member of the department's first responders unit.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi hailed Evans as a "martyr for our democracy," while Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said he was "heartbroken." Pelosi and Schumer both spoke Friday with members of Evans' family.

President Joe Biden said in a statement that he and his wife were heartbroken to learn of the attack and expressed condolences to Evans' family. He directed flags at the White House to be lowered to half-staff.

Chauvin's trial leaves many Black viewers emotionally taxed

For some it's too much to watch. Others just can't turn away.

The televised trial of Derek Chauvin, the former white police officer charged in the death of George Floyd, has provoked strong emotions among many Black men and women—all tinged with an underlying dread that it could yield yet another devastating disappointment.

For many, it has brought back memories of the disturbing video of Floyd's last moments as he gasped for breath with Chauvin's knee on his neck. The video galvanized protests in cities across the U.S. and the world, as the words "Black Lives Matter" took hold.

"I had to mute the TV," said Lisa Harris, 51, of Redford Township, just west of Detroit. "Hearing Mr. Floyd continue to say he can't breathe and call for his mother—it was a lot. It's been a lot to watch."

Steven Thompson remembers closely watching the 2013 trial of George

Zimmerman in the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida and feeling blindsided. Zimmerman, who identifies as Hispanic, was acquitted on all counts in the unarmed Black teen's death, including second-degree murder.

"I didn't expect that outcome," Thompson, 35, said. "But I'm a lot less ignorant now."

Thompson is choosing not to watch the trial of Chauvin, the former Minneapolis officer charged with murder and manslaughter, even though he feels there is a strong case against him.

"I definitely have a fear of being let down. And instead of investing my time and energy into it now, knowing how these things go, I'd rather be pleasantly surprised," the Los Angeles resident said.

Marlene Gillings-Gayle said she had planned not to watch the trial to preserve her peace of mind. But she's found herself watching almost all of it. She's had

to force herself to go outside and take walks, or risk watching the trial all day and feeling upset.

The retired high school teacher who lives in New York City describes herself as a political person who likes to stay aware of current events and vocalize her opinions.

"I'm trying not to be pissed, because we've been here and done that too many times," she said, referring to other police officers acquitted in the deaths of unarmed Black people. She's watching the trial with apprehension, as she ponders what Floyd's killing and the way the trial has unfolded so far says about America and its values.

Chauvin, 45, who was eventually fired from the police force, is accused of killing a handcuffed Floyd last May by pinning his knee on the 46-year-old Black man's neck for 9 minutes, 29 seconds, as he lay face-down. Floyd had been accused of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a neighborhood market. (AP)

Asia

AMID PROTESTS, MILITARY CRACKDOWN Myanmar death toll mounts

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Security forces in central Myanmar opened fire on anti-coup protesters on Saturday, killing at least two people according to local media. A human rights group said mounting violence since the Feb. 1 military takeover has killed at least 550 civilians.

Of those, 46 were children, according to Myanmar's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. Some 2,751 people have been detained or sentenced, the group said.

Threats of lethal violence and arrests of protesters have failed to suppress daily demonstrations across Myanmar demanding the military step down and reinstate the democratically elected government. The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in the Southeast Asian country.

The Myanmar Now news service reported government forces fired at demonstrators in Monywa city, killing at least two people. One video posted on social media showed a group of protesters carrying away a young man with what appeared to be a serious head wound, as gunfire sounded. His condition wasn't immediately known.

At least seven people were injured in the shooting, two of whom sustained severe wounds and were taken into custody by soldiers, Myanmar Now said, citing a member of a local res-



AP
Anti-coup protesters line in formation with homemade air rifles during a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar, Saturday, April 3, 2021.

cue team.

Late Friday, armed plainclothes police took five people into custody after they spoke with a CNN reporter in a market in Yangon, the country's largest city, local media reported citing witnesses. The arrests occurred in three separate incidents.

Two women reportedly shouted for help as they were being arrested, Myanmar Now reported. One police officer, who was carrying a gun, asked if "anyone dared to help them," a witness told the news service.

"They pointed their pistols at everyone—at passersby and at people in the store," a witness said of two police officers, who forcibly took away two other women in the market.

Meanwhile, the Karen National Union representing the

ethnic minority rebel group that has been fighting the government for decades condemned "non-stop bombings and airstrikes" against villages and "unarmed civilians" in their homeland along the border with Thailand.

"The attacks have caused the death of many people including children and students, and the destruction of schools, residential homes, and villages. These terrorist acts are clearly a flagrant violation of local and international laws," the group said in a statement.

In areas controlled by the Karen, more than a dozen civilians have been killed and over 20,000 displaced since March 27, according to the Free Burma Rangers, a relief agency operating in the region.

cover in what it called Chinese waters.

"It is completely normal for Chinese fishing vessels to fish in the waters and take shelter near the reef during rough sea conditions," the embassy said.

"We hope that authorities concerned would make constructive efforts and avoid any unprofessional remarks which may further fan irrational emotions," the embassy said. It added that "China is committed to safeguarding peace and stability in the waters."

Whitsun Reef lies in the Spratlys, the most hotly contested region in the South China Sea. The Philippines regards the resource-rich chain of islands, islets and atolls as part of its western province of Palawan. But the offshore region is also claimed entirely or partly by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. China has turned seven disputed reefs into missile-protected island bases in recent years, ratcheting up tensions.

within an internationally recognized offshore zone, where it has the exclusive right to exploit fisheries, oil, gas and other resources.

China ignored Manila's demand for the Chinese vessels to leave the area, which it calls Niu'e Jiao and claims as Chinese territory. The Chinese Embassy in Manila said the vessels were taking shelter at the reef from rough sea conditions.

"The Chinese ambassador has a lot of explaining to do," Lorenzana said in a statement Saturday, adding that the latest Philippine military surveillance showed 44 Chinese vessels were still moored at the reef.

"I am no fool. The weather has been good so far, so they have no other reason to stay there. These vessels should be on their way out. You should get out of there," Lorenzana said Saturday.

The Chinese Embassy responded anew by repeating that the vessels were taking

Philippine defense chief in verbal tussle with China on reef

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An annoyed Philippine defense chief renewed a demand on Saturday for dozens of Chinese vessels to leave a Manila-claimed reef in the South China Sea, and said he would not be fooled by Chinese assertions that the vessels were taking shelter from bad weather.

The Chinese Embassy shot back at what it called a "perplexing statement" by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and insisted that the vessels had the right to take shelter in what it said was Chinese territory. "Nobody has the right to make wanton remarks on such activities," it said.

The unusually hostile public exchange stemmed from the sighting early last month by the Philippine coast guard of more than 200 Chinese vessels, which Lorenzana called "militias," at the Whitsun Reef. The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest, saying the reef, which it calls Julian Felipe, lies

World

DESPITE 7 DEATHS UK: Benefits outweigh risks for AstraZeneca

LONDON (AP)—Britain's medicines regulator is urging people to continue taking the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, despite revealing that seven people in the U.K. have died from rare blood clots after getting the jab.

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency, or MHRA, said it wasn't clear if the shots are causing the clots, and that its "rigorous review into the U.K. reports of rare and specific types of blood clots is ongoing."

Though the agency said late Friday that seven people had died as a result of developing blood clots, it didn't disclose any information about their ages or health conditions.

In total, MHRA said it had identified 30 cases of rare blood clot events out of 18.1 million AstraZeneca doses administered up to and including March 24. The risk associated with this type of blood clot is

"very small," it added.

"The benefits of COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca in preventing COVID-19 infection and its complications continue to outweigh any risks and the public should continue to get their vaccine when invited to do so," said Dr. June Raine, the agency's chief executive.

Concerns over the AstraZeneca vaccine have already prompted some countries including Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands to restrict its use to older people.

The U.K., which has rolled out coronavirus vaccines faster than other European nations, is particularly reliant on the AstraZeneca vaccine, which was developed by scientists at the University of Oxford. It has also been using the vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, of which the agency has not seen any reported blood clot events.

Figures Saturday showed that the U.K. has given a first

dose of vaccine to 31.4 million people, or around 46% of its population, a much higher rate than the rest of Europe. Delivering second doses is the priority for April, with 5.2 million people now having received two jabs.

The relative success of the country's vaccination program has been credited for helping to sharply reduce new coronavirus infections in the U.K. after a winter surge, paving the way for a modest easing of lockdown restrictions on gatherings.

On Saturday, the U.K. recorded another 3,423 infections, slightly up on the previous day's six-month low of 3,402. It also recorded only 10 coronavirus-related deaths, its lowest daily total since early September.

Despite the improved coronavirus backdrop, the U.K. has recorded Europe's highest COVID-related death toll, with over 126,500 deaths.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope urges hope amid 'darkness' of pandemic in Easter vigil

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis urged his coronavirus-weary flock to not lose hope even through the continued "dark months" of the pandemic as he celebrated a scaled-back Easter vigil service in St. Peter's Basilica on Saturday. Due to social-distancing norms, only about 200 masked people were allowed to attend the service, which marks the period between Christ's crucifixion and his joyous resurrection on Easter Sunday. For the second year in a row, the Vatican cut out the traditional sacrament of baptism for a handful of adults to limit the chance of contagion. Usually a long, late-night ritual, this year's vigil service also started earlier than usual to respect Italy's 10 p.m. COVID-19 curfew. But the service began in the dramatic way it always does, with the pope lighting a single candle in the darkened basilica and then sharing its flame with others until the pews slowly begin to twinkle and the basilica's lights are turned on. In his homily, Francis said Easter offers a message of hope and new starts.

Ethiopia says Eritrean troops are pulling out of Tigray

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Ethiopian authorities said on Saturday that Eritrean troops have started withdrawing from Tigray, where they have been fighting on the side of Ethiopian forces in a war against the region's fugitive leaders. The Eritreans "have now started to evacuate" Tigray and Ethiopian forces have "taken over guarding the national border," Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. It's not clear how many Eritrean troops have left, and some in Tigray assert that the Eritreans aren't leaving at all.

The region's leaders have charged that Eritrean troops sometimes dressed in Ethiopian military uniforms. Ethiopia's government faces intense pressure to end the Tigray war, which started in November when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed deployed troops there following an attack on federal military facilities. The region's fugitive leaders do not recognize Abiy's authority after a national election was postponed last year amid the coronavirus pandemic. The G-7 group of nations on Friday issued a strong statement calling for the "swift, unconditional and verifiable" withdrawal of Eritrean troops from Tigray after Abiy said last week the Eritreans had agreed to go.

French hospitals boost Easter staff to battle virus resurgence

PARIS (AP)—French hospitals brought in extra staff for the Easter holiday weekend to cope with growing numbers of virus patients, while travelers converged on train stations and highways to flee big cities before new nationwide restrictions take hold. With a new virus variant spreading fast and French intensive care units as full as they were last April, the government closed all schools and imposed stricter new rules that take effect Sunday around the country. Bracing for more COVID-19 patients arriving over the weekend, hospitals across hard-hit northern France were ordered to bring in extra staff. Dr. Christophe Boyer, head of emergency services at the Amiens-Picardie Hospital, is worried about the rising number of patients but also dismayed that after more than a year of the pandemic, he's asking staff to make an extra effort yet again and work on Easter. "It's been a year of trying to keep our heads above water," he told The Associated Press.

Health & Wellness

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Get the facts on exercise and chronic disease



DREAMSTIME/TNS

If you have a chronic condition, regular exercise can help you manage symptoms and improve your health.

If you have a chronic condition, you might have questions about exercising. How often can you exercise? Which exercises are safe? Understand the basics about exercise and chronic disease.

If you have a chronic disease—such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma, or back or joint pain—exercise can have important health benefits. However, it's important to talk to your health care provider before starting an exercise routine. He or she might have advice on what exercises are safe and any precautions you might need to take while exercising.

Find out what you need to know about exercise and chronic disease.

If you have a chronic condition, regular exercise can help you manage symptoms and improve your health.

Aerobic exercise can help improve your heart health and endurance and aid in weight loss. High-intensity interval training is generally safe and effective for most people and can take less time. In high-intensity interval training, you alternate exercising at high levels of intensity and exercising at a less intense level for short periods of time. Even activities such as walking at higher intensities count.

Strength training can improve muscle strength and endurance, make it easier to do daily activities, slow disease-related declines in muscle strength, and provide stability to joints.

Flexibility exercises may help you to have optimal range of motion about your joints, so they can function best, and stability exercises may help reduce the risk of falls.

For example:

Heart disease. Regular exercise can help improve your heart health. Recent studies have shown that interval training is often tolerated well in people with heart disease, and it can produce significant benefits. For people with high blood pressure, exercise can lower your risk of dying of heart disease and lower the risk of heart disease progressing.

Diabetes. Regular exercise can help insulin more effectively lower your blood sugar level. Physical activity can also help you control your weight and boost your energy. If you have type 2 diabetes, exercise can lower your risk of dying of heart disease.

Asthma. Often, exercise can help control the frequency and severity of asthma attacks.

Back pain. Regular low-impact aerobic activities can increase strength and endurance in your back and improve muscle function. Abdominal and back muscle exercises (core-strengthening exercises) may help reduce symptoms by strengthening the muscles around your spine.

Arthritis. Exercise can reduce pain, help maintain muscle strength in affected joints and reduce joint stiffness. It can also improve physical function and quality of life for people who have arthritis.

Cancer. Exercise can improve the quality of life for people who've had cancer, and it can also improve their fitness. Exercise can also lower the risk of dying from breast, colorectal and prostate cancer.

Dementia. Exercise can improve cognition in people with dementia, and people who are active on a regular basis are at less risk of dementia and cognitive impairment.

Your health care provider might recommend specific exercises to reduce pain or build strength. Depending on your condition, you might also need to avoid certain exercises altogether or during flare-ups. In some cases, you might need to consult a physical or occupational therapist before starting to exercise.

If you have low back pain, for example, you might choose low-impact aerobic activities, such as walking and swimming. These types of activities won't strain or jolt your back.

If you have exercise-induced asthma, be sure to keep an inhaler handy while you exercise.

If you have arthritis, the exercises that are best for you will depend on the type of arthritis and which joints are involved. Work with your health care provider or a physical therapist to create an exercise plan that will give you the most benefit with the least aggravation on your joints.

Before starting an exercise routine, it's important to talk to your health care provider about how long your exercise sessions can be and what level of intensity is safe for you.

In general, try to accumulate about 30 minutes of physical activity a day at least five days a week. For example, try walking briskly for about 30 minutes most days of the week. You can even break physical activity up into short chunks of time spread out

through the day. Any activity is better than none at all.

If you're not able to do this much activity, do as much as you can. Even an hour a week of physical activity can have health benefits. Start with moving more and sitting less, and work your way up to moving more each day.

If you haven't been active for a while, start slowly and build up gradually. Ask your doctor what kind of exercise goals you can safely set for yourself as you progress.

Depending on your condition, your health care provider might recommend certain precautions before exercising.

If you have diabetes, for example, keep in mind that physical activity lowers blood sugar. Check your blood sugar level before any activity. If you take insulin or diabetes medications that lower blood sugar, you might need to eat a snack before exercising to help prevent low blood sugar.

If you have arthritis, consider taking a warm shower before you exercise. Heat can relax your joints and muscles and relieve any pain you might have before you begin. Also, be sure to choose shoes that provide shock absorption and stability during exercise.

Talk to your doctor about what kind of discomfort you might expect during or after exercise, as well as any tips for minimizing your pain. Find out what type or degree of pain might be normal and what might be a sign of something more serious.

If you have heart disease, for example, signs or symptoms that you should stop exercising include dizziness, unusual shortness of breath, chest pain or an irregular heartbeat.

Starting a regular exercise routine can be tough.

To help you stick with your routine, consider exercising with a friend. You might also ask your health care provider to recommend an exercise program for people who have your condition, perhaps through a local hospital, clinic or health club.

To stay motivated, choose activities that are fun, set realistic goals and celebrate your progress.

Share any concerns you might have about your exercise program—from getting started to keeping it up—with your health care provider. (Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)

Exercise and stress: Get moving to manage stress

Exercise in almost any form can act as a stress reliever. Being active can boost your feel-good endorphins and distract you from daily worries.

You know that exercise does your body good, but you're too busy and stressed to fit it into your routine. Hold on a second—there's good news when it comes to exercise and stress.

Virtually any form of exercise, from aerobics to yoga, can act as a stress reliever. If you're not an athlete or even if you're out of shape, you can still make a little exercise go a long way toward stress management. Discover the connection between exercise and stress relief—and why exercise should be part of your stress management plan.

Exercise increases your overall health and your sense of well-being, which puts more pep in your step every day. But exercise also has some direct stress-busting benefits.

It pumps up your endorphins. Physical activity helps bump up the production of your brain's feel-good neurotransmitters, called endorphins. Although this function is often referred to as a runner's high, a rousing game of tennis or a nature hike also can contribute to this same feeling.

It's meditation in motion. After a fast-paced game of racquetball or several laps in the pool, you'll often find that you've forgotten the day's irritations and concentrated only on your body's movements.

As you begin to regularly shed your daily tensions through movement and physical activity, you may find that this focus on a single task, and the resulting energy and optimism, can help you remain calm and clear in everything you do.

It improves your mood. Regular exercise can increase self-confidence, it can relax you, and it can lower the symptoms associated with mild depression and anxiety. Exercise can also improve your sleep, which is often disrupted by stress, depression and anxiety. All of these exercise benefits can ease your stress levels and give you a sense of command over your body and your life. (Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)



Exercise in almost any form can act as a stress reliever.

Life & Style

Rapper DMX on life support after heart attack, lawyer says

DMX's longtime New York-based lawyer, Murray Richman, said the rapper was on life support Saturday evening at White Plains Hospital.

"He had a heart attack. He's quite ill," Richman said.

Richman said he could not confirm reports that DMX, 50, overdosed on drugs and was not sure what caused the heart attack.

"I'm very sad about it, extremely sad. He's like my son," Richman said. "He's just a tremendous person, tremendous entertainer, tremendous human being. And so much to offer, so much to say. Not the run-of-the-mill rapper. A person of great depth."

DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, made a splash in rap music in 1998 with his

first studio album "It's Dark and Hell is Hot," which debuted No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart. The multiplatinum selling album was anchored by several hits including "Ruff Ryders Anthem," "Get At Me Dog" and "Stop Being Greedy."

The rapper had four other chart-topping albums including "...And Then There Was X," "Flesh of My Flesh, Blood

of My Blood," "The Great Depression" and "Grand Champ." He has released seven albums and earned three Grammy nominations.

Along with his music career, DMX paved his way as an actor. He starred in the 1998 film "Belly" and appeared in "Romeo Must Die" a couple



DMX

years later with Jet Li and the late singer Aaliyah. DMX and Aaliyah teamed up for the film's soundtrack song "Come Back in One Piece."

The rapper also starred in "Exit Wounds" with Steven Seagal and "Cradle 2 the Grave" with Li.

Over the years, DMX has battled with substance abuse. The rapper canceled a series of shows to check himself into a rehabilitation facility in 2019. In an Instagram post, his team said he apologized for the canceled shows and thanked his fans for the continued support.

Last year, DMX faced off against Snoop Dogg in a Verzuz battle, which drew more than 500,000 viewers. (AP)

With King Kong, a little swagger returns to the box office

NEW YORK (AP)—Once again, mayhem and mass destruction is back at the box office. It's almost like old times.

"Godzilla vs. Kong," one of the few tentpoles to dare release during COVID times, is poised this weekend to set a new high in ticket sales during the pandemic. It won't be the kind of blockbuster business such a big-budget release would typically manage, but experts forecast a launch of at least \$25 million.

Opening-day ticket sales on Wednesday for "Godzilla vs. Kong" totaled \$9.6 million, Warner Bros. said Thursday—a single-day pandemic record and more than most 2020-2021 opening

weekend hauls. Last weekend, the monster mash pulled in an impressive \$123.1 million internationally. In China, where moviegoing is close to pre-pandemic levels, the movie made about \$70 million, double the debut of 2014's "Godzilla."

For the first time in a long time, there's the faint hint of a hit at the box office.

"It's a good omen that the tastes of the consumer have not shifted so much that there's no possibility of re-starting the movie business," says Joshua Grode, chief executive of Legendary Entertainment, which produced "Godzilla vs. Kong." "This tells everybody: the movie-

going business is here, and, yes, it may be different post-pandemic. But there is a viable industry there."

Huge challenges remain to the revival of moviegoing. With so many cinemas shuttered for nearly an entire year, many moviegoers are out of the habit. Some are unlikely to return to sitting indoors with strangers until they're vaccinated or the pandemic has ebbed. And even those who have been convinced of the safety of moviegoing by theaters' health protocols, they now have only more in-home options. "Godzilla vs. Kong" is streaming simultaneously on HBO Max in North America.

Unopened Super Mario Bros. game from 1986 sells for \$660,000

DALLAS (AP)—An unopened copy of Nintendo's Super Mario Bros. that was bought in 1986 and then forgotten about in a desk drawer has sold at auction for \$660,000.

Heritage Auctions in Dallas said the video game sold Friday.

The auction house said the video game was bought as a Christmas gift but ended up being

placed in a desk drawer, where it remained sealed in plastic and with its hang tab intact until it was found earlier this year.

"Since the production window for this copy and others like it was so short, finding another copy from this same production run in similar condition would be akin to looking for single drop of water

in an ocean," said Valarie McLeckie, Heritage's video game specialist.

Heritage said it is the finest copy known to have been professionally graded for auction. Its selling price far exceeded the \$114,000 that another unopened copy that was produced in 1987 fetched in a Heritage auction last summer.

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt held a gala parade on Saturday celebrating the transport of 22 of its prized royal mummies from central Cairo to their new resting place in a massive new museum further south in the capital.

The ceremony, designed to showcase the country's rich heritage, snaked along the Nile corniche from the Egyptian Museum overlooking Tahrir Square to the newly opened National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in the Fustat neighborhood, where Egypt's first Islamic capital was located.

The mummies were being transported in climate-controlled cases loaded onto trucks decorated with wings and pharaonic design for the hour-long journey from their previous home in the older Egyptian Museum. The vehicles were designed to appear like the ancient boats used to carry deceased pharaohs to their tombs.

Most of the mummies belong to the New Kingdom, which ruled Egypt between 1539 B.C. to 1075 B.C., ac-

cording to the Ministry of Antiquities.

They include Ramses II, one of the most famous pharaohs, and Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only woman Pharaoh—who wore a false beard to overcome tradition requiring women to play only secondary roles in the royal hierarchy.

The mummies—18 pharaohs and four other royals—were originally buried around 3,000 years ago in secret

tombs in the Valley of Kings and the nearby Deir el-Bahri site. Both areas are near the southern city of Luxor. The tombs were first excavated in the 19th century.

After excavation, the mummies were taken to Cairo by boats that sailed the Nile. Some were showcased in glass cases, while others were stored. The remains of Ramses II were taken to Paris in 1976 for intensive restoration work by French scientists.



A convoy of vehicles transporting royal mummies is seen in Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, April 3, 2021. AP

Marriage is not in the future for man with divorce in his past

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mom. I have a man in my life who I have been with for almost four years. He went through a bad divorce during the time we got together, and anytime I try to mention marriage in the future, he gets upset. I'm unsure what to do or how to respond anymore.

I know my kids aren't his, so he owes us nothing, but I need more stability and the assurance that if something were to happen to him, we would be OK. I'm 35 and have never had the chance to get married, only to find out that he never wants to get married. So what do I do?

MYSTIFIED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Talk to your significant other. Keep the conversation calm and tell him what you wrote to me. Add to it that after four years, he should know by now what your needs are and that he can trust you—but you need stability for your kids' sakes and your own. If he can't bring himself to make another trip to the altar, a trip to a lawyer's office might yield an agreement that meets your needs and his. However, if he refuses to consider it, then what you must do is move on.

DEAR ABBY: I attend a Bible study. The man who teaches it is very gifted, but he spends more and more time on anecdotal

stories about his past in the business world. Some of us drive long distances to his class. When we broached the subject, he got an attitude. He told us to "suck it up and get used to it," which, needless to say, rudely closed the door on the conversation.

How can we get across to him that we LOVE his Bible teaching, but we don't want to hear all his backstory stuff, especially since many of us have heard these stories over and over?

LOVES THE GOOD BOOK

DEAR LOVES: What this teacher has told you is that he has no intention of changing his routine. Because his pattern doesn't entertain you and interferes with your enlightenment, as well as other members of the class, let those who are willing to tolerate his blather continue his Bible study and business course, while the rest of you move forward with another, less egotistical instructor.

DEAR ABBY: I have reached a place in life where I'm getting older and have more money than I need. My husband and I want to give to our nieces, nephews and some cousins who we know are struggling financially. Do you have any suggestions on how to do this without being insulting?

Some of the nieces are quite well off, while others are a car repair away from not being able to pay their mortgage. Giving

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the same amounts seems fair in one way, but their needs are very different. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. We are also giving to charities we support, but would like to be able to help family.

HELPING OUR OWN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR HELPING: This is something you should discuss with your financial adviser or your attorney. Your reasoning is sound, but keep in mind that unequal bequests can be problematic for the recipients in the long run.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



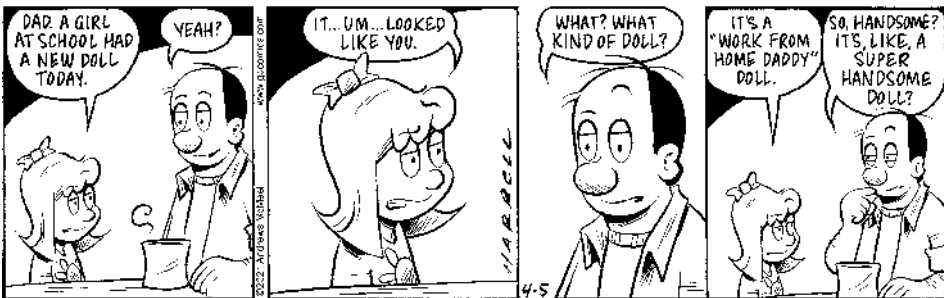
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pool stick
4 Group of three
9 "It's c-c-cold!"
12 Magic, on scoreboards
13 Starbucks size
14 Aussie hopper
15 Excursions on tandems
17 Vintage
18 Marsh
19 Grimaces
21 Arboreal ape
24 Undecided
25 Citric beverage
26 Kitten's cry
28 Jazz legend
31 Match parts
33 Aachen article
35 Country singer
36 Trattoria offering

DOWN

1 Male swan
2 Swiss canton
3 Yellow-stone grazer
4 Place for binge-watching
5 Occu-pied the throne
6 Neighbor of Ill.
7 "This is only —"
8 Dance clubs
9 Whole-grain dish
10 Ham-burger holder
11 Scepters
16 Flow out
20 Spoken
21 React in horror
22 Inventor's inspira-tion
23 Legendary flagmaker
27 Marry
29 Medicinal plant
30 Actress Goldie
32 "Go no further!"
34 Lasagna cheese
37 Pueblo structures
39 Became enraged
42 Skater Ohio
44 Actor Stephen
45 "Waterloo" group
46 Press
50 Small batteries
51 Gear tooth
52 Ages and ages
53 Old French coin

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	D	D	P	S	A	C	O	A	T	S
R	O	I	A	L	L	A	J	D	I	O
A	U	S	R	A	T	N	D	R	O	P
B	B	C	E	L	V	E	S			
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U	R	N	S		U	S	E	D	A	V
C	A	S	H	C	R	O	P	S	N	O
O	B	A	M	A	B	O	I	I	O	U
M	A	Y	O	R	S	N	O	F	M	P

Last Friday's Answer 04/05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15			16						17	
			18					19	20	
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25			26		27		28		29	30
31		32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40	
		41			42		43		44	
45	46						47			
48			49		50			51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Phyllis Williams, 48; Mike McCready, 55; Mitch Pileggi, 69; Agnetha Faltskog, 71.

Happy Birthday: The best path to new beginnings is completing anything you've left undone. Tidy up loose ends, and you'll be able to pursue the next phase of your life. Memories will play a role in helping you make decisions that will lead to a better life and a happier outcome. Put in the time, do the work and see what happens. Your numbers are 4, 11, 21, 26, 34, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A passionate approach to living your dream will bring you the satisfaction you desire. Set high standards and goals, and jump in and do your part. Positive action leads to opportunity and personal happiness. Romance is in the stars. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Change begins with you. Don't let indecisiveness bog you down. Do research, adopt a plan that helps you excel and embrace change with confidence. Don't feel the need to do everything all at once. Pace yourself, and stick to your budget. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Hard work will pay off. Don't take a shortcut that someone recommends. Pay attention to detail if you want to outperform the competition. Intelligence and a passionate approach to what you are trying to achieve are favored. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Slow down. Don't take an unnecessary risk. Deal with complex issues directly. If you let someone take over, it won't be easy to control

the outcome. Be open to suggestions, but put your stamp on whatever you pursue. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have more power than you realize. Don't let what others do stand in your way. Take steps in a direction that will increase your value, skills and knowledge. Surround yourself with people who facilitate your pursuits. Romance is in the stars. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take notes, hone your skills and push ahead. Pay attention to what's going on around you and the people you work alongside. It's essential to keep up with technology and find a way to utilize what you learn in your routine. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have opportunities waiting for you to incorporate into your plans. Put your energy into something that will help you improve your chance to advance. Pay attention to what's going on at home, and nurture meaningful relationships. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen carefully. Be careful when dealing with joint endeavors or shared expenses. Too much of anything will hold you back. Look for an affordable path that's within your capabilities. Focus on personal growth and working alone. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your emotions out of money matters. Overspending to please someone won't pay off. Don't make promises you cannot keep. Offer support, honesty and common sense, and you'll gain respect and loyalty. Home improvement is favored. ★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	5			7		1	8	3
6		1						4
	7			3	9			5
				1	3	2		
2		3				4		9
		9	6	4				
1			7	9			4	
4						8		6
3	2	5		6			1	

Difficulty Level ★

4/05

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	3	7	9	2	5	4	1	8
2	9	8	3	1	4	7	5	6
5	4	1	6	8	7	2	3	9
7	8	9	1	3	2	5	6	4
1	5	2	8	4	6	3	9	7
4	6	3	7	5	9	1	8	2
9	7	5	2	6	3	8	4	1
3	1	6	4	7	8	9	2	5
8	2	4	5	9	1	6	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't mix business with pleasure. Someone will use emotional tactics to take advantage of you. Protect your health from unsavory situations that put you in harm's way. Make positive changes that will replace obstacles with opportunities. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend only on what's necessary. Use common sense when dealing with people who want you to make a questionable change. Put more time and effort into physical fitness, good health and making changes that improve your life. Discipline will pay off. ★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in a cause or exciting project. Refuse to let your past or someone you used to know disrupt your plans. Choose your course of action, and follow through on your own. Focus on your needs, not on someone's demands. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are brave, willful and kind. You are optimistic and supportive.
★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes.
★★stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others.
★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals.
★★★★: Aim high; start new projects.
★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GRANA PADANO CHEESE

Solution: 9 letters

P	E	G	N	I	K	O	O	C	S	F	D	L	O	M
R	A	N	O	T	T	O	S	I	R	L	A	Z	S	E
D	O	R	I	A	R	Z	S	E	B	R	I	N	E	P
E	S	M	M	T	N	E	E	E	U	N	R	C	I	A
S	U	O	A	I	C	E	N	N	C	R	Y	E	E	H
S	T	R	E	G	G	I	A	N	O	U	D	P	K	S
E	E	H	R	A	N	I	D	E	M	A	L	S	V	
R	V	A	T	P	P	A	E	O	T	I	S	H	E	
T	T	N	S	R	R	N	O	N	N	(M)	(K)	(S)	(N)	
E	I	A	I	O	O	T	T	D	A	E	R	B	W	E
V	Y	P	G	T	N	I	N	S	I	K	B	H	Y	T
D	E	L	R	E	G	I	O	N	T	E	E	E	L	O
N	B	C	R	I	I	U	N	T	A	E	H	A	R	D
I	B	T	I	N	P	N	D	G	L	W	S	W	O	C
R	A	C	U	R	D	S	G	S	Y	N	I	A	R	G

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Abbey, Ageing, Benevolence, Bread, Brine, Cooking, Cows, Curds, Dairy, Dessert, Free, Grainy, Grate, Hard, Heat, Heinz, Italy, Milk, Mole, Parmigiana, Planura, Piedmont, Protein, Reggiano, Region, Rennet, Rice, Rind, Ripen, Risotto, Romagna, Romano, Salt, Sauces, Seasoning, Shake, Shape, Skim, Slice, Soup, Tomato, Trento, Verato, Vetus, Vintage, Wheel's, Whay, Zinc
Last Friday's Answer: Funniest
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-5480.

Embiid back for 76ers, scores 24 in win over Timberwolves



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid had 24 points and eight rebounds in his return to the lineup, and Tobias Harris scored 32 to lead the Philadelphia 76ers over the Minnesota Timberwolves 122-113 on Saturday night.

Ben Simmons added 14 points, eight rebounds and six assists for Philadelphia (34-15), which pulled even with idle Brooklyn for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Embiid missed the previous 10 games due to a bone bruise in his left knee. The four-time All-Star and MVP candidate entered averaging 29.9 points and 11.5 rebounds in 31 games this season.

With his left knee heavily wrapped, Embiid moved well but his game wasn't quite as sharp as it had been before he got injured March 12 at Washington. Embiid shot 6 of 14 from the field, but missed all four 3-point tries, and converted 12 of 17 free throws.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 39 points, 14 rebounds and five assists for the Timberwolves, who have the worst record in the NBA at 12-38. Anthony Edwards added 27 points.

Jazz 137, Magic 91

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 22 points and Utah set an NBA record for 3-pointers in a half against depleted Orlando, extending its franchise-best home winning streak to 22 games.

The Jazz made 18 3-pointers in the first half. Mitchell shot 6 of 7 from beyond the arc to help Utah open a 78-40



advantage at the break.

Joe Ingles and Bojan Bogdanovic each had 17 points for the Jazz. No Utah player logged more than 24 minutes while all 13 in uniform scored at least five points.

The Jazz did all that without point guard Mike Conley, who usually sits one side of back-to-back games to rest his right hamstring.

Wendell Carter Jr. had 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Magic, who went 2 for 23 from long range.

Heat 115, Cavaliers 101

In Miami, Duncan Robinson scored 18 points on 6-for-9 shooting from 3-point range and Miami continued its home dominance over Cleveland.

Bam Adebayo finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds, Trevor Ariza scored 15 and Jimmy Butler added 15 points and 11 assists as the Heat won their 20th straight against the Cavaliers in Miami.

Collin Sexton scored 26 points for the Cavaliers, who lost their fifth straight and have not won in Miami since January 2010.

Pacers 139, Spurs 133, OT

In San Antonio, Caris LeVert scored 26 points and short-handed Indiana snapped a three-game losing streak by beating San Antonio in overtime.

Aaron Holiday, Myles Turner and T.J. McConnell

each had 18 points for Indiana. McConnell and Turner combined for 11 points in overtime for the Pacers, who played without Domantas Sabonis, Malcolm Brogdon and Jeremy Lamb.

San Antonio outscored Indiana 5-0 in the final two minutes of regulation to force the extra period but lost its second straight game at home in overtime. DeMar DeRozan had 25 points for the Spurs.

Mavericks 109, Wizards 87

In Washington, Luka Doncic scored 26 points as Dallas defeated Washington for its fourth straight victory.

Doncic added eight rebounds and six assists to help the Mav-

^{AP} Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid reacts to no call on a shot at the end of the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Saturday, April 3, 2021, in Philadelphia.

ericks finish 4-1 on their road trip. Jalen Brunson scored 19 points and Boban Marjanovic posted his third double-double of the season with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Russell Westbrook had 26 points and 14 rebounds but the Wizards set a season low for points. Washington has dropped three straight and 11 of 14 since the All-Star break.

The Wizards shot just 5 of 25 from long distance.

Knicks 125, Pistons 81

In Detroit, Julius Randle scored 20 of his 29 points in the first quarter and New York pounded Detroit.

Randle and Reggie Bullock, who had 22 points, hit four 3-pointers apiece in the first as New York put it away early. The Knicks stopped a three-game slide, returning to .500 at 25-25.

Jerami Grant scored 16 points for the Pistons. Detroit rookie Killian Hayes returned after missing 41 games with a hip injury. The No. 7 draft pick out of France was scoreless in 20 minutes.

Bucks 129, Kings 128

In Sacramento, Calif., Jrue Holiday scored a season-high 33 points to go with 11 assists and seven rebounds, and Milwaukee overcame the absence of Giannis Antetokounmpo to

slip past Sacramento.

Brook Lopez had 26 points and Donte DiVincenzo added 12 points, seven assists and a season-best 14 rebounds for Milwaukee. The Bucks have won three straight following consecutive losses to the Celtics, Knicks and Clippers.

De'Aaron Fox scored 27 points for the Kings, and Terence Davis had a season-high 27 off the bench. Tyrese Haliburton added 12 points and 11 assists.

Antetokounmpo was held out because of left knee soreness, one night after the reigning two-time MVP scored 47 points in a 127-109 win over Portland.

Minus their leading scorer, the Bucks led most of the way but needed six points from Holiday in the final 2:23 and a heads-up timeout by Khris Middleton to hold on.

Trail Blazers 133, Thunder 85

In Portland, Ore., CJ McCollum scored 20 points to lead eight Trail Blazers in double figures as Portland routed Oklahoma City.

Damian Lillard and Anfernee Simons each added 16 points for the Blazers, who sent their starters to the bench before taking a 104-59 lead into the final quarter.

Portland led by as many as 52 and the final margin was the largest ever for the team at the Moda Center.

Kenrich Williams had 18 points for the short-handed Thunder, who have lost five of six. None of Oklahoma City's starters reached double figures.

Grant Hill helped the U.S. win Olympic gold in 1996. He would have been on the team again in 2000 if not for injury. And he was among the college kids who famously beat the first "Dream Team" in a scrimmage before the 1992 Olympics.

Now, USA Basketball is bringing him back.

Hill will become the men's national team managing director following the Tokyo Olympics, USA Basketball said Saturday. He'll replace the retiring Jerry Colangelo, in a move in which one Basketball Hall of Famer takes over for another in the critical role of assembling teams that will compete for gold.

"It's just an incredible opportunity, also an incredible challenge," Hill said Saturday. "I had the good fortune of participating in international play—the Pan American Games, of course the Olympic team—and I have been a fan of Team USA going back to the 1984 Olympic team when I first started to fall in love with

USA Basketball picks Grant Hill as Colangelo's replacement

basketball. The more I thought about it, the more intrigued, excited and the more willing I was to roll up my sleeves and move forward with this awesome responsibility."

Hill's resume is elite. He played 19 NBA seasons, was an All-Star seven times — likely would have been more if not for the ankle problems that derailed his career — and made five All-NBA teams. At Duke, he helped the Blue Devils win national championships in 1991 and 1992.

Hill went into the Hall of Fame in 2018 and has worked as an NBA and college basketball analyst for Turner Sports for nearly a decade. And he's part of the broadcast team for the men's Final Four this weekend in Indianapolis, the sixth straight year he's been on that crew.

He will remain in broadcasting after assuming his USA Basketball job.

"Grant is a proven leader of consequence and character who will continue to help us

achieve on our twin goals of winning international competitions and representing our country with honor," USA Basketball Board of Directors chair and retired Gen.

Martin Dempsey said. "In making this announcement, I also want to emphasize how much everyone associated with USA Basketball appreciates Jerry Colangelo for everything he did for USA Basketball over the past 15 years."

And Colangelo did plenty.

The managing director role was created for him in 2005, after the Americans lost three games in the 2004 Athens Olympics and returned with an extremely disappointing bronze medal. Colangelo has since overseen the process of selecting players and coaches, bringing in Duke's Mike Krzyzewski—who led the U.S. to Olympic golds in 2008, 2012 and 2016—and now San Antonio's Gregg Popovich to serve as head coaches.

In major competitions with Colangelo as managing director, the U.S. men have gone 97-4. Colangelo's departure was not unexpected; the

80-year-old made no secret of his plans to retire after the Tokyo Games, which were delayed one year to this summer because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I intend to spend an incredible amount of time with Jerry, shadow him some this summer, and I think that experience will certainly help as we move forward," Hill said. "He's just an invaluable resource and has done a remarkable job, so you can't help but learn from someone like Jerry."

No matter what happens in Tokyo, Hill will take over at a hectic time. The delay of these Olympics compresses everything; the next Basketball World Cup is only two years away and the Paris Games are just three years out.

"It's a great choice," Popovich said of the move to bring

Hill aboard. "He's knowledgeable, respected, knows how to handle himself, a deep thinker, been around a long time and seen a lot."

Popovich also tipped his cap to Colangelo, saying Hill has "big shoes to fill."

"He has done an outstanding job, a job that was necessary and he's done it with class and really represented the United States in the best ways with what he did for USA Basketball," Popovich said. "I have no doubt that Grant will continue that good work."

Hill knows the rest of the world is catching—or has caught—up to USA Basketball. He predicted that would happen in 1996, when he was part of Dream Team II that won the gold in Atlanta, and isn't alone in the belief that the game found a new gear internationally because of the success of the first Dream Team four years prior.

Hill was a 19-year-old college sophomore when he was

brought in along with Bobby Hurley, Chris Webber and others to scrimmage the U.S. team that featured Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Patrick Ewing and more. The college kids won 62-54 in that first scrimmage; debate has raged since about whether U.S. coach Chuck Daly threw the game to make a point that no team was unbeatable, but there is no debate about how that day in California helped the NBA stars come together.

"We had a good moment," Hill said. "That experience—having a chance to practice with, learn from, spend time with arguably the greatest team ever assembled—it wasn't a formal even with a medal ceremony and the like, but it certainly was a pivotal moment for me and my development and my growth as a player."

Hill's job that day was to beat USA Basketball's best. His job going forward will be to make sure that doesn't happen.

He's already starting to plan.

"The brain is working," Hill said. (AP)

Suggs hits the winner, Zags top UCLA, 93-90

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Jalen Suggs took the inbounds pass and saw nothing but clear sailing. Three dribbles. Past the half-court line. A little stutter-step.

And straight into history.

The Gonzaga freshman banked in a shot at the buzzer from near the Final Four logo for a 93-90 overtime win over UCLA on Saturday night that vaulted the Bulldogs to within one win of an undefeated season and the national title.

Talk about a perfect finish!

This thriller in the national semifinal was the best game of the tournament, and, considering the stakes, it served up possibly the best ending in the history of March Madness — a kiss off the glass from near midcourt to keep a perfect season alive.

“Stuff like this is something you dream of as a kid and that you practice on your mini-hoop,” Suggs said.

After the shot went in, Suggs ran to the mostly empty press row, jumped up on the table, pumped his fists and let out a huge yell to the crowd of 8,000-or-so socially distanced fans. The refs checked to make sure he got the shot off before the buzzer sounded. He did, and the Bulldogs moved to 31-0 and into Monday night’s final, where they’ll play Baylor for the title.

They are the first team to bring an undefeated record into the championship game since Larry Bird and Indiana State in 1979. Bird lost that game to Magic Johnson and Michigan State. It means Gonzaga could become the first team since the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers to go undefeated.

“We were lucky enough to hit a 50-footer,” Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. “So it helps when you have a magical, special guy like Jalen, special at the end of games.”

Even without Suggs’ shot, it would’ve been hard to beat this game for pure excitement — a welcome relief in a tournament that has produced mostly blowouts and duds, sort of like Baylor’s 78-59 snoozer over Houston earlier in the evening.

The nightcap featured 15 ties and 19 lead changes and an 11th-seeded UCLA team that simply wouldn’t give in. Even though they lost, the Bruins snapped a streak of 27 straight double-digit wins by Few’s juggernaut.

Some might say it was the greatest game ever.

“I’d say no because we didn’t win,” UCLA coach Mick Cronin said.

UCLA (22-10) was the first team to lead Gonzaga in the second half over five games of tournament play and, in fact, had a chance to win at the end



of regulation.

With the game tied at 81, Johnny Juzang was taking it hard to the hoop in the final seconds, when Zags forward Drew Timme, playing with four fouls, stepped into the paint, planted his feet and took a charge.

Gonzaga called time and tried a Grant Hill-to-Christian Laettner full-court pass with 1.1 seconds left. It didn’t connect. Five minutes later, Suggs knocked Laettner’s shot down a spot on the list of all-timers.

Turns out, it’s a shot the freshman — who chose Gonzaga basketball over a chance to play Division I football — practices every day.

“I’m just telling you he makes those ones all the time in practice,” Few said. “He’s just got this magical aura about him. I knew when he shot it, it was going in.”

Before that, Suggs’ best play might have been his rejection of UCLA big man Cody Riley (14 points, 10 rebounds), who looked to be going in for a dunk that would have put the Bruins up by two at the 2-minute mark. Suggs got the block, then fed Timme (25 points) for a dunk that instead gave the Zags the slight advantage with 1:55 left.

UCLA deserved better than this.

The Bruins went toe-to-toe all night with the top-ranked team in the country. This was their third overtime out of six games in the tournament — they played an extra one in the First Four play-in round — and they never trailed by more than seven. They got everything they could have dreamed of on a magical night of college hoops. Everything but the win.

And so, they stay “stuck” on their nation-leading 11 titles, most of them won back in the ‘60s and ‘70s when John Wooden was the coach.

“I just told them, ‘We’ve got to let that shot go,’” Cronin

said. “We won. I sit in coach Wooden’s seat. When you sit in his seat, you have to channel the things that he taught. True greatness is giving your best effort.”

Who would dare say they didn’t?

Juzang had 29 points for the Bruins, including a 15-footer with 1:27 left in regulation that helped them claw back from seven down to tie it at 79.

Jamie Jaquez Jr. was also unimpressed by Gonzaga. He handled Timme’s inside pressure all night, scoring 19 points. Jaquez’s two free throws tied it at 81 with 43 seconds left.

It looked like it would be Timme’s overtime. He dipped and ducked for Gonzaga’s first six points of the extra session and an 87-83 lead that felt like breathing room in this one.

But Cronin called a timeout and UCLA chipped away again.

Juzang’s putback with 3.3 seconds left tied it at 90. Few didn’t call timeout. Corey Kispert collected the ball as it fell through the net, passed it in to Suggs, and that set the stage for a great shot. Maybe a rewrite of the history books, too.

There was Laettner’s catch-and-shoot to help Duke beat Kentucky back in 1992. In 2016, Kris Jenkins made a 3 to help Villanova win the title at the buzzer. Eleven years ago, right here in Indy, Gordon Hayward of Butler launched a half-court heave that went in and out and almost toppled Duke.

Suggs’ shot came from a little closer.

But it went in.

“This is,” he said, “the greatest feeling I’ve ever been a part of.”

Baylor 78, Houston 59

In Indianapolis, nearly two decades ago, Scott Drew decided to leave his comfort zone at

tiny Valparaíso for the scandal-plagued basketball program at Baylor, explaining to his father that there was nowhere for the Bears to go but up.

Now, they’re one win away from the top.

Led by Jared Butler and the rest of their brilliant backcourt, a defense that refused to give Houston an inch and a coach intent on making the most of his first trip to the Final Four, the Bears roared to a 78-59 victory Saturday night in their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament semifinals in 71 long years.

“Every day you’re grinding, and you don’t really look back. You’re pressing forward,” Drew said, “but I’m so blessed to have these unbelievable players that bought into what we like to do with the program.”

Or, as Butler put it: “This is what we came to Baylor to do.”

Butler scored all 17 of his points in the first half, but just about everyone from Baylor (27-2) got into the act, with five players scoring in double figures. They built a 45-20 lead by halftime and coasted the rest of the way in the first Final Four showdown between schools from the Lone Star State.

Next up for the Bears is Gonzaga, the overall No. 1 seed, which beat UCLA 93-90 when Jalen Suggs banked in a buzzer-beater in overtime. Monday night’s championship is a matchup that was supposed to take place in December, but that game was called off hours before tipoff due to a COVID-19 outbreak within the Bulldogs program.

“They got pros, we got pros. They win a lot of games, we win a lot of games,” Butler said. “I think we match up pretty well.”

Better than Houston did with them.

Marcus Sasser had 20 points and Quentin Grimes 13 for the cold-shooting Cougars (28-4), whose dream path to their first Final Four since 1984 — they faced teams seeded 15th, 10th, 11th and 12th along the way — ended with a whimper against a team that spent most of the season ranked No. 2 in the nation behind Gonzaga.

“We had a great run,” Sasser said as he choked back tears. “Just fell short this year.”

Butler said this week that Baylor had been focused squarely on the Final Four since the moment last year’s tournament was canceled by the pandemic. And for Drew, the wait goes back even longer.

He took over a program 18 years ago embroiled in arguably the biggest controversy in college basketball history: the graphic shooting death of player Patrick Dennehy, his teammate Devon Dotson pleading guilty to his murder, attempts by then-coach Dave Bliss to cover it all up and NCAA sanctions that lasted well into Drew’s own tenure.

Yet somehow, the son of longtime Valpo coach Homer Drew could always picture the very scene that unfolded Saturday night: His team playing selflessly, almost effortlessly, never once feeling the pressure of college basketball’s biggest stage, then celebrating their success at midcourt when the final buzzer sounded.

Well, there were a couple things Drew probably didn’t picture.

Instead of 70,000 fans reaching to the rafters, the Bears were cheered in the lower bowl by thousands of cardboard cutouts—the late Georgetown coach John Thompson, New Mexico State mascot Pistol Pete and everyone in between —due to COVID-19 measures that have forced

Gonzaga guard Jalen Suggs (1) celebrates making the game winning basket against UCLA during overtime in a men’s Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament semifinal game, Saturday, April 3, 2021, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

them to live in a bubble for the last three weeks.

The roughly 8,000 fans that were allowed through the doors, socially distanced in a vast ocean of blue seats, provided a muted soundtrack to the blowout taking place inside the cavernous home of the Indianapolis Colts.

“This was probably the toughest year for any of us,” Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said, “and not just the bubble here but COVID challenges, isolation, being quarantined, social distancing, masks — this was quite a year. But you know, the sting of this will leave them. Days will turn into weeks, weeks into months, and what they’ll remember is the memories.”

At least, all those leading up to Saturday night.

The Bears controlled the game from the jump, unleashing an early 14-3 run fueled by the crisp passing, silky shooting and dastardly defense that made them unbeatable before a 23-day COVID-19 pause late in the regular season.

When the Cougars finally scored, the Bears ripped off another 16-3 run later in the first half, carving up the nation’s top 3-point field-goal defense with ruthless efficiency. By the time Davion Mitchell knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers to end the first half, the Bears had a 45-20 lead that felt insurmountable.

“I don’t think I’ve seen a team with five guards at that level, no drop-off,” Sampson said, “and they were good at both ends of the floor.”

Sasser did everything he could to keep Houston alive, hitting five 3-pointers and scoring 17 himself. But the rest of the Cougars were 1 of 15 from the field, including their All-American guard Grimes (0 for 5) and DeJon Jarreau (1 for 7), who earned MVP honors in the Midwest Region.

Sampson, whose reputation for being a master tactician was stretched to the limit, tried to get the guard-heavy Cougars to go to the basket more in the second half. But nothing seemed to work.

“We came out of the locker room and competed,” Sampson said with a shake of his head, “but Baylor is the best team we’ve played. They may be the best team we’ve played in the seven years I’ve been here.”

Feisty Reds top Cardinals, 9-6, for 1st win of season



CINCINNATI (AP)—

Nick Castellanos stood over, flexed and jawed at St. Louis pitcher Jake Woodford after scoring, setting off a series of scuffles that included relievers shoving in the outfield as the Cincinnati Reds beat the Cardinals 9-6 Saturday.

St. Louis starter Adam Wainwright was knocked around for six runs and chased in the third. The next inning, the teams started tagging each other.

Castellanos, who homered on opening day and hopped out of the box before tossing his bat, was plunked by Woodford with two outs and none on in the fourth. Castellanos retrieved the ball and offered to toss it back to Woodford before flipping it out of play.

A wild pitch soon sent Castellanos scampering home from third and he scored with a head-first slide for a 7-2 lead as he bumped into Woodford, who took the throw from catcher Yadier Molina at the plate.

As Castellanos began walking away, Molina rushed up and tapped him from behind, and the benches and bullpens emptied in a wild scene.

There was more pushing and shoving before order seemed to be restored. But as relief pitchers for both teams were heading back to their bullpens, they tangled in the outfield.

Castellanos was the only



player ejected.

Twins 2, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, José Berrios and three Minnesota relievers combined on a one-hitter with 17 strikeouts to outduel Milwaukee's Corbin Burnes.

The Twins held Milwaukee hitless until Omar Narváez delivered a one-out single off reliever Tyler Duffey in the eighth inning. Neither team

had a hit or walk until Minnesota's Byron Buxton led off the seventh with a homer against Burnes (0-1).

Buxton's homer came on the 87th and final pitch from Burnes, who had 11 strikeouts. Berrios (1-0) struck out 12, hit a batter and didn't walk anybody in six innings but left after 84 pitches.

Astros 9, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Yordan Álvarez hit a three-run homer and Houston kept thriving through all the boos, slugging its way to a third straight win over Oakland.

Houston has outscored Oakland 26-7 in three games against the defending AL West champion A's, who were eliminated by the Astros in a four-game AL Division Series last fall.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 3

In New York, Gary Sánchez joined Elston Howard in 1963 as the only Yankees catchers to homer in each of the first two games of a season and Jay Bruce blooped a two-run single in the seventh for his first hit with his new team in New York's win over Toronto.

Two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber, limited by injuries to one inning in the previous two seasons, pitched around control problems to allow one earned run over four innings in his Yankees debut.

Orioles 4, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Maikel Franco drove in two runs after a Boston error, Pedro Severino had his second two-hit game in a row and Matt Harvey made his Orioles debut in a win over the Red Sox.

Franco's single came after Red Sox third baseman Rafael Devers made a diving stop on Austin Hays' grounder but sailed the throw to second. The Orioles also took advantage of a Boston error for a two-run inning in Friday's opener, a 3-0 win.

Tigers 5, Indians 2

In Detroit, Julio Teheran pitched through trouble in his Detroit debut, leading the Tigers to a win over Cleveland.

For a second straight game, Detroit scored two runs in the first and led the rest of the way. Willi Castro hit an RBI triple off Zach Plesac (0-1) and came home on Miguel Cabrera's groundout. The Tigers added three runs in the seventh.

Royals 11, Rangers 4

In Kansas City, Michael A. Taylor homered and drove in three for the second straight game, leading Kansas City over Texas.

Released by Washington after hitting .196 last season, Taylor is off to a sensational start for Kansas City. After getting three hits and throwing out two runners at the plate from center field in a 14-10 win on opening day, Taylor came back with a home run and double as the Royals improved to 2-0.

Cubs 5, Pirates 1

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta pitched six solid innings in a triumphant return to the Cubs, Kris Bryant and Jason Heyward homered, and Chicago beat Pittsburgh.

Arrieta (1-0) got a warm reception prior to the game, then gave up just one run

and six hits. The 35-year-old right-hander struck out five and walked one. Javier Báez singled twice, drove in a run and scored one. He also stole two bases.

Phillies 4, Braves 0

In Philadelphia, Zack Wheeler allowed only one hit and struck out 10 in seven innings and had two hits and two RBIs at the plate to lead Philadelphia over Atlanta.

Wheeler retired the final 17 Atlanta hitters he faced after a one-out single by Travis d'Arnaud in the second.

Marlins 12, Rays 7

In Miami, Starling Marte had four hits and Miami beat Tampa Bay at home for the first time since 2018.

Garrett Cooper homered and drove in three runs for the Marlins, and pinch-hitter Adam Duvall also went deep. Marte and leadoff man Miguel Rojas each scored three times.

Tampa Bay, the reigning American League champion, won 11 of the previous 12 matchups between the Sunshine State rivals over the past three years. Miami was 0-7 against the Rays at home since a 3-0 victory on July 4, 2018—including losses in the first two games this season.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 0

In San Diego, Joe Musgrove was brilliant in his debut for his hometown Padres, Manny Machado homered for his first hit of 2021 and Wil Myers drove in three runs on two doubles as San Diego beat Arizona.

With his parents and other family members in the stands,

St. Louis Cardinals' Nolan Arenado, center left, reacts alongside teammate catcher Yadier Molina, center, as they scrum with members of the Cincinnati Reds during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Cincinnati, Saturday, April 3, 2021.

Musgrove (1-0) held the Diamondbacks to three hits in six innings while striking out eight and walking none. After allowing a one-out single in the first, he retired 11 straight, seven by strikeout.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 5

In Denver, Zach McKinstry hustled for a go-ahead, inside-the-park homer in the eighth inning when left fielder Raimel Tapia reached over the fence to bring the ball back, only to have it bounce out of his glove and roll away, helping Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Kenley Jansen got five outs to earn the save.

McKinstry lined a fastball from Mychal Givens (0-1) that resulted in his first major league homer. It was the first inside-the-park homer by a Dodgers player since Chris Taylor on Sept. 18, 2017, at Philadelphia.

McKinstry's drive was heading into the seats before Tapia made a sensational play as he crashed into the wall. The ball bounced away as a staggered Tapia fell to the ground before realizing the ball was still in play. McKinstry motored around bases and clapped as he crossed home plate.

Tapia left the game after the play.

Angels 5, White Sox 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Justin Upton's homer capped a three-run rally in the eighth inning and Los Angeles, helped by a flyball that bounced off the head of White Sox center fielder Luis Robert, beat hot-hitting Yermín Mercedes and Chicago.

Mercedes homered, doubled and singled to become the first player since at least 1900 to begin a season with eight straight hits. The 28-year-old rookie flied out in his final at-bat, ending the streak.

Mariners 4, Giants 0

In Seattle, Chris Flexen returned to the majors with a win after a year in South Korea, and Seattle got home runs from Mitch Haniger and Ty France while shutting out San Francisco.

Flexen (1-0) struck out six and allowed four hits in five sharp innings to help the Mariners take their first series of the year. The 26-year-old right-hander spent 2020 with the Doosan Bears of the Korea Baseball Organization.

HERNAEZ

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managed to finish the race with 43 points.

Meanwhile, in the Big Boy ATV, Christian Camacho continues to hold the lead after sweeping both heats during the third leg of the series to gain 50 points. Camacho holds a perfect score overall with 150.

At second place is Rex Susulin who just joined the series during its third round. Susulin managed to snag 42.01 points putting him above former No.

NMITA

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Games here twice and we did very well both of those times. But that was a competition that we're very handy at. The Pacific Games is a whole other animal but we'll see how we do," he added.

In terms of preparations, a big step has already been taken to make the American Memorial Park tennis courts Mini Games-ready which is replacing the lights in three of the four courts.

The next step, Race said, is for all four courts to be resurfaced. Fortunately, according to the National Park Service,

2 Ton Basa who didn't participate in the third leg.

Kier Agda grips the lead in the Novice Class after placing 2nd in both heats to gain 44 points, bumping his overall score to 136.

Corry Pangelinan managed to jump from 7th place overall to 3rd after placing first in both heats of the third round to gain 50 points, bumping him up to 109.

Henry Camacho Jr. still holds No. 2 spot after placing third in the third round earning him 40 points, bringing his overall score to 119.

the resurfacing of the courts is expected before the end of this year.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, initially, the Mini Games was scaled down to just six events and the proposed budget was trimmed from \$8 million to \$3 million. With the inclusions of three new sports to the events calendar, including tennis, the Mini Games will now feature nine events bumping the needed funding up to \$4 million.

Initial payment in preparation of the events will be remitted to the Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee by the CNMI Department of



Embiiid back for
76ers, scores
24 in win over
Timberwolves

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Suggs hits the
winner, Zags
top UCLA, 93-90

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hernaez rises to top of Expert Class



By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Angelito Hernaez advanced to the top of the Expert Class of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi after topping foes in the third round last March 21.

Hernaez, who previously held the No. 2 spot, advanced to No. 1 after conquering Cuki Alvarez who held the position in the last rounds.

Although Hernaez didn't

sweep both heats of the race, he managed to earn a total of 47 points to bump his overall score up to a 128. Alvarez fell short in the third leg where he



placed 5th earning him 30 points to bump his overall score up to 117.

Shane Alvarez tied with Hernaez in the third round with a score of 47. Despite



JOSEPH CHIN

Right, Angelito Hernaez, who previously held the No. 2 spot, advanced to the No. 1 spot after conquering Cuki Alvarez, left, during the third leg of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

JOSEPH CHIN
Angelito Hernaez advanced to the top of the Expert Class of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi after topping foes in the third round last March 21.

just starting the class in the second leg back in Feb. 28, Shane currently holds No. 6 in overall standings with a total score of 97.

Alverick Alvarez and Franklin Santos also tied during the third series both earning 38 points. Santos currently holds the No. 3 spot with a total of 114 points followed closely by Alverick at 4th with 110 points.

Meanwhile, in the Veterans Class, Cuki Alvarez is vying for the lead against Dave Celis. Although Celis still holds the lead with a total of 135 points, after the third leg, Cuki has managed to catch up, now just 3 points behind at 132. Melvin Cepeda continues to hold on to third place in the Veterans Class with a total of 126.

Celis and Cuki were head-to-head during their race last Sunday. Celis won by a hair with 45 points, closely tailed by Cuki who earned 44 points. It was also a close race between Cuki and Cepeda who

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NMITA readies team for Mini Games

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association has started to assemble a team to represent the CNMI for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games that will consist of some of the CNMI's top tennis players.

Although the inclusion of tennis in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games is still subject to approval by the Mini Games committee, Jeff Race, CNMI National Tennis team coach and NMI Tennis Association official, said that many of the CNMI's top players will come back to represent the Commonwealth in the prestigious event.

"We have all of those top players coming back, including our professional player, Colin Sinclair. We should also have Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, Carol Lee, and Isabel Heras, and [more]. We're going to have very, very strong teams," he said.

With Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' backing of the inclusion, Race said the Mini Games committee would most likely include the sport which and by doing so, gives

the CNMI a good chance at winning some medals in the games.

"Tennis is the most successful sport in the CNMI. It's the only sport that we won medals in [during] the 2019 Games in Samoa. We won three gold medals and a silver medal. That's the most success the CNMI ever had in the Games. They

will approve it if the governor has appropriated the money," Race said.

Race said NMITA is very excited about the inclusion and hopes to see support for the CNMI team from the community.

"We're very excited that we get to have this competition here at home. We hope that a lot of CNMI fans will come out and cheer for our tennis players and enjoy watching and hopefully watch our players win medals," he said.

"It's the first time that we've ever had a Pacific Games here in the CNMI. It's the biggest Games we've ever been privileged to have. We've had the Micronesia

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Colin Sinclair, Pacific Games multiple gold medalist and tennis pro player, is expected to play for Team CNMI in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games once the inclusion of tennis is confirmed by the Pacific Mini Games committee.